

On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Wednesday, April 10, 2013



Life Flight personnel rush a victim wounded in a stabbing attack on the Lone Star community college system's Cypress, Texas campus into Memorial Hermann Hospital Tuesday, April 9, 2013, in Houston.

Associated Press

Talk aside, NKorean capital shows calm, not panic

JEAN H. LEE

Associated Press

PYONGYANG, North Korea

(AP) — Scores of North Koreans of all ages planted trees as part of a forestation campaign — armed with shovels, not guns. In the evening, women in traditional dress danced in the plazas to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the late leader Kim Jong Il's appointment to a key defense post.

Despite more warnings from their leaders of impending nuclear war, people in the capital gave no sense of panic.

Chu Kang Jin, a Pyongyang resident, said everything is calm in the city.

"Everyone, including me, is determined to turn out as one to fight for national reunification ... if the enemies spark a war," he added, using nationalist rhetoric common among many North Koreans when speaking to the media.

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Student arrested in Texas college stabbing attack

JUAN A. LOZANO

Associated Press

RAMIT PLUSHNICK-MASTI

Associated Press

CYPRESS, Texas (AP) — A

student went on a building-to-building stabbing attack at a Texas community college Tuesday, wounding at least 14 people before being subdued and arrested, authorities said.

The attack at about 11:20 a.m. on the Lone Star Community College System campus sent at least 12 people to area hospitals, including four people taken by helicopter, according to volunteer fire department spokesman Robert Rasa. He said several people refused treatment at the scene and all the wounds

were consistent with stabbing. Sheriff Adrian Garcia said officers responded to the campus after receiving a call about a male "on the loose" stabbing people. He said it was not immediately clear what type of weapon was used.

"Some of the details in the call slip did indicate that students or faculty were actively responding to work to subdue this individual," Garcia said, describing the man as being about 21 years old and enrolled at the college. "So we're proud of those folks, but we're glad no one else is injured any more severely than they are."

Lone Star officials initially urged people on campus,

about 25 miles (40 kilometers) northwest of downtown Houston, to take shelter and be on alert for a second suspect. But the sheriff's department said a short time later that authorities believed just one person was responsible.

"It was the same suspect going from building to building," department spokesman Thomas Gilliland said.

Garcia said buildings still were being searched Tuesday afternoon.

Student Teaundrae Perryman said he was in class when he received a text message from a friend and went outside to see a young woman being loaded into an ambulance with

what appeared to be stab wounds to either her neck or head. He said he didn't receive an email alert from the college until 11:56 a.m.

"I was concerned but I wasn't afraid because I was with a large group of people," the 21-year-old said, later adding, "The police got to the scene very quickly."

The four people taken by helicopter and two others with moderate injuries were taken to Memorial Hermann Hospital. Of those six, two were in critical condition and four were in fair condition Tuesday afternoon, hospital spokeswoman Alex Rodriguez said.

Continued on Page 3

Top senator announces Thursday gun control vote

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Senate's top Democrat set the first showdown vote in Congress on President Barack Obama's gun control drive for Thursday as a small but mounting number of Republicans appear willing to buck a conservative effort to prevent debate from even beginning.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid criticized Republicans anew Tuesday for trying to prevent a gun control debate. Conservatives say they will use procedural tactics to prevent the Senate from even debating firearms restrictions, meaning 60 out of 100 senators will need to vote for allowing a debate — though several Republicans are coming out against the obstruction effort. The Senate machinations follow Obama's remarks in Connecticut on Monday night on gun control, an issue catapulted into the national arena by the gruesome December slaying of 20 young children and six educators at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut.

Obama's proposals — headlined by background checks for more gun buyers and bans on assault



Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., is followed by reporters as he walks from Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid's, D-Nev., office on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, April 9, 2013, after a meeting on gun control.

Associated Press

weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines — have hit stiff opposition from the powerful gun lobby, the National Rifle Association, and are struggling in Congress. A federal ban on assault weapons has gone nowhere, though some states are imposing their own. Participants from both parties said a bipartisan deal was imminent on expanding required federal background checks to

gun purchases conducted at gun shows and online. The two chief negotiators, Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Pennsylvania Republican Sen. Patrick Toomey, were expected to announce the compromise Wednesday. Such a compromise would be likely to attract bipartisan support because both lawmakers are among their parties' most conservative members. Currently,

background checks are required only for sales through licensed gun dealers. The background checks, aimed at keeping firearms from criminals and certain other buyers, remain the cornerstone of Obama's gun plan. Democrats have been buoyed by polls consistently showing more than 8 in 10 Americans support subjecting more buyers to background checks. Obama was calling sena-

tors from both parties Tuesday to push for the gun bill, according to a White House official. There are 53 Democrats and two Democratic-leaning independents in the Senate, though it remains unclear whether any moderate Democrats from Republican-leaning states might support the conservative effort. In a hopeful sign for Democrats, at least five Republican senators have indicated a willingness to oppose the conservatives' attempt to block debate with stalling tactics. "The American people ought to see where everybody stands on this," said Sen. Tom Coburn, a Republican who said he wants the debate to proceed. A Senate vote to begin debating the guns package would mark a temporary victory for Obama and his allies. But some Republicans, though eager to avoid blocking debate on the plan, could well vote against the measure's final passage. And with Republican senators facing resistance from their cohort in the Republican-run House of Representatives, the ultimate outcome seems shaky for the Democrats. □



In this Jan. 30, 2009 file photo, an Exxon tanker truck makes a refueling stop at an Exxon station in Arlington, Va.

Associated Press

LYNNE TUOHY
Associated Press
CONCORD, New Hampshire (AP) — A jury found Exxon Mobil liable Tuesday in a long-running lawsuit over groundwater contamination by the gasoline additive MTBE, and ordered

the oil giant to pay \$236 million to New Hampshire to clean it up.

The jurors reached their verdicts in less than 90 minutes, after sitting through nearly three months of testimony in the longest state trial in

Exxon Mobil must pay \$236M in pollution case

New Hampshire history. The state seeks \$236 million to monitor and remediate groundwater contaminated by MTBE — which travels farther and faster in groundwater than gasoline without the additive.

"We appreciate the jurors' service during this long trial, but erroneous rulings prevented them from hearing all the evidence and deprived us of a fair trial," said Exxon Mobil lawyer David Lender.

Jurors found that Exxon Mobil was negligent in adding MTBE to its gasoline and that it was a defective product. They also found

Exxon Mobil liable for failing to warn distributors and consumers of the product about its contaminating characteristics.

The jury determined that the hazards of using MTBE gasoline was not obvious to state officials, who opted into the reformulated gasoline (RFG) program in 1991 to help reduce smog in the state's four southernmost counties.

Lawyers representing Exxon Mobil argued the company used MTBE to meet federal Clean Air Act mandates to reduce air pollution and should not be held liable for sites contaminated by unnamed third parties, such as junk yard owners and independent gas station owners.

The state says more than 600 wells in New Hampshire are known to be contaminated with MTBE and an expert witness estimated the number could exceed 5,000.

Jurors had more than 400 exhibits to sift through, including memos and reports dating back decades. Those memos included some dating back to 1984 in which Exxon Mobil researchers warned against using MTBE gasoline. □

Cuba to turn over Florida couple and children

PAUL HAVEN

PETER ORSI

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Cuba said Tuesday that it will turn over to the United States a Florida couple who allegedly kidnapped their own children from the mother's parents and fled by boat to Havana, ending days of drama that evoked memories of the Elian Gonzalez custody battle of more than a decade ago.

Foreign Ministry official Johana Tablada told The Associated Press in a written statement Tuesday that Cuba had informed U.S. authorities of the country's decision to turn over Joshua Michael Hakken, his wife Sharyn, and their two young boys.

She did not say when the handover would occur, but reporters saw Sharyn Hakken leaving the dock of Havana's Hemingway Marina in the back seat of a Cuban government vehicle and workers later said that all four Hakkens had been taken away.

An AP reporter spotted the family earlier Tuesday beside their boat at the mar-

ina. A man who resembled photographs of Joshua Michael Hakken yelled out "Stop! Stay back!" as the reporter approached, but there was no outward sign of tension or distress between the family members. Tablada said the Foreign Ministry had informed U.S. diplomats on the island "of the Cuban government's willingness to turn over ... U.S. citizens Joshua Michael Hakken, his wife Sharyn Patricia and their two minor sons."

She said Cuba tipped the State Department off to the Hakkens' presence on Sunday and that from that moment "diplomatic contact has been exchanged and a professional and constant communication has been maintained."

U.S. authorities say Hakken kidnapped his sons, 4-year-old Cole and 2-year-old Chase, from his mother-in-law's house north of Tampa. The boys' maternal grandparents had been granted permanent custody of the boys last week. The U.S. and Cuba share no extradition agreement and the island nation is

also not a signatory of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, an international treaty for governmental cooperation on such cases.

Cuba has harbored U.S. fugitives in the past, though most of those cases date back to the 1960s and 70s, when the island became a refuge for members of the Black Panthers and other militant groups. More recently, dozens of Cuban Medicare fraud fugitives in the U.S. have tried to escape prosecution by returning to the island.

But Cuba has also cooperated with U.S. authorities in returning several criminal fugitives in recent years, including Leonard B. Auerbach in 2008.

Auerbach was wanted in California on federal charges of sexually abusing a Costa Rican girl and possessing child pornography. He was deported. In 2011, U.S. marshals flew to Cuba and took custody of two American suspects wanted in a New Jersey murder.

Hakken lost custody of his



A state security officer, in yellow, instructs journalists to stop making pictures of Joshua Hakken's blue sailboat, Salty, docked at the Hemingway Marina, in Havana, Cuba, Tuesday, April 9, 2013.

Associated Press

sons last year after a drug possession arrest in Louisiana and later tried to take the children from a foster home at gunpoint, authorities said. A warrant has been issued for his arrest on two counts of kidnapping; interference with child custody; child neglect; false imprisonment and other charges.

"My team and I working very hard to ensure safety for two Amcits kids," Conrad Tribble, the No. 2 U.S. diplo-

mat on the island, said via Twitter later Tuesday, using a shorthand for "American citizens."

According to the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, Hakken entered his mother-in-law's Florida house last Wednesday, tied her up and fled with his sons. Federal, state and local authorities searched by air and sea for a boat Hakken had recently bought. The truck Hakken, his wife and the boys had been traveling in was found Thursday, abandoned in Madeira Beach, Florida.

"He'll have to face in Hillsborough county the charges he has with the sheriff's office," spokeswoman Cristal Bermudez Nunez Nunez said.

She said she did not know how the family would be returned or what will happen when they arrive on U.S. soil.

Terri Durdaller, a spokeswoman at the Florida Department of Children and Families, said it was not clear where the children will ultimately be placed.

"Louisiana is the ultimate decision maker on where these children will reside. It's likely they will be placed back in Florida with the grandmother," she said.

The family's flight to Cuba harkened back to the 1999 child custody case involving Elian Gonzalez, though unlike Gonzalez, the Hakkens had no apparent ties to the island. □

Stabbing attack

Continued from front

One student said she learned one of her classmates was stabbed after leaving the school's Health Science Center building.

"I called to check on another classmate who was still inside the building and she said the classroom was on lockdown and she said one of the classmates had been stabbed," Margo Shimfarr-Evans told KHOU-TV. "It happened in the hallway."

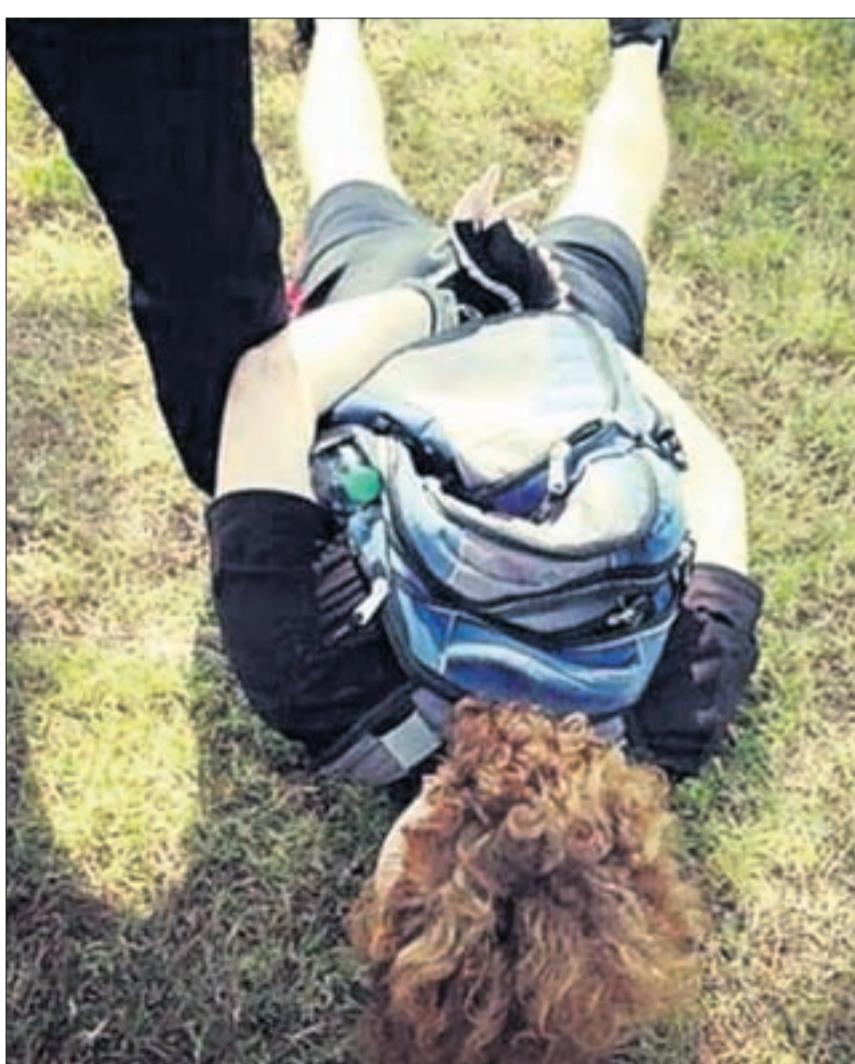
Courtland Sedlachek, 18, was in class when his phone started buzzing along with the phones of everyone else in class. The room was temporarily locked down, but students were let out and off campus a short time later, in what Sedlachek described as an orderly evacuation.

He described his reaction as a "little bit of nervousness."

The attack came three months after a different Lone Star campus was the site of a shooting in which two people were hurt. The suspected gunman in that incident is charged with aggravated assault. □

This photo provided by Michael Chalfan shows a man in custody after a series of stabbings at the Cy-Fair campus of Lone Star Community College in Cypress, Texas, on Tuesday, April 9, 2013.

Associated Press



FBI asked to investigate tape of senator meeting

ROGER ALFORD

Associated Press

FRANKFORT, Kentucky (AP)

— The FBI has been asked to look into whether a U.S. senator's campaign headquarters was bugged after a recording of a private campaign meeting surfaced in which the senator and aides discussed ways to question the mental health of a potential opponent, actress Ashley Judd. Mother Jones magazine published the recording of the February meeting in which U.S. Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell's aides discussed opposition research into potential Democratic challengers. Aides talked and laughed on the recording about Judd's political positions, religious beliefs and past bouts of depression. She later decided not to run.

"We've always said the left would stop at nothing to attack Senator McConnell, but Watergate-style tactics to bug campaign headquarters are above and beyond," said McConnell campaign manager Jesse Benton in a statement Tuesday. "Senator McConnell's campaign is working with the FBI and has notified the local U.S. Attorney in Louisville, per FBI request, about these recordings. Obviously a recording device of some kind was placed in Sen. McConnell's campaign office without consent. By



Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky. answers questions from reporters, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, April 9, 2013, following a Republican strategy session. The FBI is investigating allegations that McConnell's re-election campaign office was bugged with an electronic listening device.

Associated Press

whom and how that was accomplished presumably will be the subject of a criminal investigation."

Stephanie Collins, a spokeswoman for the U.S. attorney in Louisville, declined to comment. The FBI in Louisville did not immediately return a phone call, nor did the magazine. Mother Jones reported that the recording was provided last week by a source who requested anonymity.

On the recording posted on Mother Jones' website, McConnell began the meeting by telling aides the campaign had entered "the Whac-A-Mole period," a reference to a popular arcade game, explaining that means "when anybody sticks their head up, do them out."

Mother Jones said the aides huddled on Feb. 2 in a private meeting to dis-

cuss potential Democratic opponents, including Judd and Kentucky Secretary of State Alison Lundergan Grimes. Grimes, a rising star within the Kentucky Democratic Party, has not ruled herself out as a challenger. An unidentified aide said Judd had made a public statement as a Tennessee delegate to the national convention about her support of President Barack Obama, an unpopular political figure in Kentucky. The aide said that statement could be used against her. He also said the statement raised another issue: that Judd is a resident of Tennessee, not Kentucky.

A recording of Judd could then be heard in which she said "I am committed to President Obama and Vice President Biden. They're my candidates and I will be a

surrogate in the campaign and do whatever I can ... " An aide also charged that Judd is "clearly sort of anti-sort-of-traditional American family. ... She described having children as selfish, and she thinks it's unconscionable to breed. So you put that with what we'll talk to you later about — her sort of pro-choice stance — and it's sort of a, you know, pretty extreme posture to take."

The aide then plays a recording of Judd talking about her religious beliefs: "I still choose the God of my understanding as the God of my childhood. I have to expand my God concept from time to time, and you know particularly I enjoy native faith practices, and have a very nature-based God concept. I'd like to think I'm like St. Francis in that way. Brother Donkey, Sister Bird."

The campaign aides then laugh loudly.

An unidentified man then says "the people at Southeast Christian would take to the streets with pitchforks," referring to an evangelical megachurch in Louisville.

The aide finishes his narrative about Judd with a discussion about past mental health issues.

"She's clearly — this sounds extreme — but she is emotionally unbalanced," the aide said. "I mean it's been documented. Jesse can go in chapter and verse from her autobiography about, you know, she's suffered some suicidal tendencies. She was hospital-

ized for 42 days when she had a mental breakdown in the '90s."

Judd has been open about her bouts with depression. She spoke to the American Counseling Association's national convention in Cincinnati in March, telling more than 3,000 counselors about her experiences. Her spokeswoman, Cara Tripicchio, criticized the McConnell campaign for considering making it a campaign issue.

"This is yet another example of the politics of personal destruction that embody Mitch McConnell and are pervasive in Washington DC," Tripicchio said in a statement. "We expected nothing less from Mitch McConnell and his camp than to take a personal struggle such as depression, which many Americans cope with on a daily basis, and turn it into a laughing matter. Every day it becomes clearer how much we need change in Washington from this kind of rhetoric and actions."

In the discussion of Grimes, the aide said she had endorsed Obama.

"She was too smart to use his name in a sentence," the aide said. "But she says, 'my support of our party and our nominee is well known, and it's no secret I'll be in North Carolina to support our nominee and the party.'"

The aide charged that Grimes has "a very sort of self-centered, sort of egotistical aspect" and that "she'll frequently use herself in the third person." □

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US: Pilot's texting contributed to copter crash

JOAN LOWY

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Texting by the pilot of a medical helicopter contributed to a crash that killed four people, U.S. accident investigators declared Tuesday, and they approved a safety alert cautioning all pilots against using cellphones or other distracting devices during critical operations.

It was the first fatal commercial aircraft accident investigated by the National Transportation Safety Board in which texting has been implicated. And it underscored the board's worries that distractions from electronic devices are a growing factor in incidents across all modes of transportation — planes, trains, cars, trucks and even ships.

While no U.S. airline crashes have been tied to electronic device use, the Federal Aviation Administration in January proposed regulations prohibiting airline flight crews from using cellphones and other wireless devices while a plane



This photo provided by the National Transportation Safety Board, shows the wreckage of a helicopter that crashed near Mosby, Mo., on Aug. 26, 2011. Associated Press

is in operation. The regulations are required under a law passed last year by Congress in response to an October 2010 incident in which two Northwest Airlines pilots overflew their destination of Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport by 100 miles (160 kilo-

meters) while they were engrossed in working on their laptops.

Regulations already in place prohibit airline pilots from engaging in potentially distracting activities during critical phases of flight such as takeoffs, landings and taxiing. In some cas-

es, however, pilots are allowed to use tablet computers containing safety and navigation procedures known as "electronic flight bags," replacing paper documents.

The five-member board unanimously agreed that the helicopter crash was caused by a distracted and tired pilot who skipped preflight safety checks, which would have revealed his helicopter was low on fuel, and then, after he discovered his situation, decided to proceed with the fatal last leg of the flight. The case "juxtaposes old issues of pilot decision making with a 21st century twist: distractions from portable electronic devices," said board Chairman Deborah Hersman. □

3 Ga.-based soldiers killed in Afghanistan attack



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Tameca Burnett closes the door of a mortuary transport vehicle containing transfer cases containing the remains of U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Christopher M. Ward, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers civilian Hyun K. Shin, Monday, April 8, 2013, at Dover Air Force Base, Del.

Associated Press

FORT STEWART, Ga. (AP) — Three soldiers based at Fort Stewart in southeast Georgia died in a weekend suicide bombing in Afghanistan that also killed a young American diplomat and a Defense Depart-

ment civilian worker, the Army said Tuesday. The military identified the slain soldiers as Staff Sgt. Christopher M. Ward, 24, of Oak Ridge, Tenn.; Spc. Wilbel A. Robles-Santa of Junco, Puerto Rico; and Spc.

Delfin M. Santos Jr. of San Jose, Calif. All three served as cavalry scouts in the 5th Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division.

They were among five Americans killed Saturday in a suicide car bombing while delivering textbooks to children in Zabul, Afghanistan. Also slain in the attack was Anne Smedinghoff, a 25-year-old U.S. diplomat from suburban Chicago. The name of the civilian worker who was slain has not been released.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the bombing.

The soldiers were providing a security escort for Smedinghoff as she traveled by convoy to deliver the books to a school, said Ward's grandmother, Nancy Ward. □

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Associated Press

California tax bill seeks to punish Scouts for gay ban

LISA LEFF

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)

California lawmakers are considering taking some tax exemptions away from youth groups that do not accept gay, transgender or atheist members — a move intended to pressure the Boy Scouts of America to lift its ban on gay Scouts and troop leaders.

Some cities have withdrawn free rent and other subsidies from the Boy Scouts over the years, but legislation introduced by Democratic state Sen.

Ricardo Lara would make California the first U.S. state to target the Scouts for its anti-gay policy.

The bill is scheduled for its first committee hearing Wednesday.

Deron Smith, a spokesman for the Boy Scouts of America, told The Associated Press the organization was preparing a response to the proposal.

The legislation would deny tax-exempt status to nonprofit youth groups that discriminate on the basis of gender identity, race, sexual orientation, nation-

ality, religion or religious affiliation.

As a result, it would require those organizations to pay corporate taxes on donations, membership dues, camp fees and other sources of income, and to obtain sellers permits and pay sales taxes on food, beverages and homemade items sold at fundraisers.

Churches that sponsor Boy Scouts troops would not lose their underlying tax-exempt status, but an array of nonprofits,

ranging from the Young Men's Christian Association and Pop Warner football to the American Youth Soccer Association and 4-H clubs would have their tax returns and membership policies scrutinized by the state Franchise

Tax Board if the bill becomes law, according to the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office.

Also known as the Youth Equality Act, the bill requires a two-thirds vote from both houses of the Legislature and the signature of Gov. Jerry Brown to become law. □

Legal aid groups that represent religious conservatives have cautioned that the measure conflicts with a 2000 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that upheld the right of private groups such as the Boy Scouts to exclude gays and lesbians from serving as adult leaders.

Lawyers for the Arizona-based Alliance Defending Freedom wrote in a letter to lawmakers last week, "This type of targeted punishment of a group, based on how it exercises its associational and free speech rights, violates the First Amendment" to the U.S. Constitution.

The Legislative Analyst's Office, however, has assured the Legislature it has authority to decide which organizations qualify for tax breaks.

An analysis of the bill points to a 2006 ruling in which the California Supreme Court said the city of Berkeley, California, could end its half-century-old practice of giving a nautical-themed offshoot of the Boy Scouts free rent at the city marina because of its gay ban. □

sponsibility for the bombing.

The soldiers were providing a security escort for Smedinghoff as she traveled by convoy to deliver the books to a school, said Ward's grandmother, Nancy Ward.

"It's bad enough to be killed in action," she said. "But when you are trying to do something good, it seems like a double slap in the face."

While Ward has family in Tennessee, his grandmother said he grew up in Arcadia, Fla., and stayed with his grandparents to finish high school at Desoto County High School after his mother moved to Oak Ridge.

Nancy Ward said her grandson knew he wanted

to be a soldier during high school, when he was heavily involved in the ROTC program.

He joined the Army in November 2005, according to Fort Stewart officials, and was serving his third overseas deployment.

"He had his mind made up that the Army was going to be his future," Ward's grandmother said.

Fort Stewart officials said both Santos and Robles-Santa were serving their second deployments.

A phone number for Santos' family could not immediately be found Tuesday. Robles-Santa's mother, Maribel Santa-Rivera, did not immediately return a phone message from The Associated Press on Tuesday afternoon. □

Ex-Illinois lawmaker elected to House



In this Feb. 26, 2013 file photo, Robin Kelly celebrates her special primary election win in Matteson, Ill., for Illinois' 2nd Congressional District seat, once held by Jesse Jackson Jr.

Associated Press

SOPHIA TAREEN

Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Former state Rep. Robin Kelly has won the special election for Jesse Jackson Jr.'s vacated Illinois congressional seat.

The Matteson Democrat was widely expected to win Tuesday's contest over Republican community activist Paul McKinley. The strongly Democratic Chicago-area district includes suburbs and rural areas. Kelly easily won the special primary in February from a crowded field of

candidates including former Congressman Debbie Halvorson. The main issue in that race quickly became gun control and Kelly's campaign received a \$2 million boost in ads including ones on television targeting Halvorson.

Kelly is in favor of an assault weapons ban and has vowed to be a leader in the federal fight for gun control.

Jackson resigned in November. In February, he pleaded guilty to charges accusing him of misspending campaign funds. □

NKorean capital shows calm, not panic

Continued from front

The North's latest warning, issued by its Asia-Pacific Peace Committee, urged foreign companies and tourists to leave South Korea. "The situation on the Korean Peninsula is inching close to a thermonuclear war due to the evermore undisguised hostile actions of the United States and the South Korean puppet warmongers and their moves for a war against" North Korea, the statement said Tuesday.

There was no sign of an exodus of foreign companies or tourists from South Korea. White House spokesman Jay Carney called the statement "more unhelpful rhetoric." "It is unhelpful, it is concerning, it is provocative," he said. The warning appeared to be an attempt to scare foreigners into pressing their governments to pressure Washington and Seoul to act to avert a conflict.

Analysts see a direct attack on Seoul as extremely unlikely, and there are no overt signs that North Korea's army is readying for war, let alone a nuclear one. North Korea has been girding for a showdown with the U.S. and South Korea, its wartime foes, for months. The Korean War ended in 1953 with an armistice, not a peace treaty, leaving the peninsula still technically at war.

In December, North Korea launched a satellite into space on a rocket that Washington and others called a cover for a long-range missile test. The North followed that with its third underground nuclear test in February, a step toward mastering the technology for mounting an atomic bomb on a missile.

Tightened U.N. sanctions that followed drew the ire of North Korea, which accused Washington and Seoul of leading the campaign against it. Annual U.S.-South Korean military drills south of the border have further incensed Pyongyang, which sees them as practice for an in-



South Korean army soldiers on the truck pass at barricaded Unification Bridge near the border village of Panmunjom, that has separated the two Koreas since the Korean War, in Paju, north of Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday, April 10, 2013.

Associated Press

vasion.

Last week, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un enshrined the pursuit of nuclear weapons — which the North characterizes

Tuesday that he concurred with an assessment by Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., calling the tension between North Korea and the West the worst since the end of

panel.

He said the U.S. military and its allies would be ready if North Korea tries to strike. Heightening speculation about a provocation, for-



A South Korean worker, fifth from left, who arrived with boxes of products, seen at left, from North Korea's Kaesong is questioned by media upon his arrival at the customs, immigration and quarantine office near the border village of Panmunjom, which has separated the two Koreas since the Korean War, in Paju, north of Seoul, South Korea, Tuesday, April 9, 2013.

Associated Press

as a defense against the U.S. — as a national goal, along with improving the economy. North Korea also declared it would restart a mothballed nuclear complex.

Adm. Samuel Locklear, commander of U.S. Pacific Command, told the Senate Armed Services Committee in Washington on

the Korean War.

"The continued advancement of the North's nuclear and missile programs, its conventional force posture, and its willingness to resort to asymmetric actions as a tool of coercive diplomacy creates an environment marked by the potential for miscalculation," Locklear told the

foreign diplomats reported last week that they had been advised by North Korea to consider evacuating by Wednesday.

However, Britain and others said they had no immediate plans to withdraw from Pyongyang. South Korean President Park Geun-hye, who has sought to re-engage North

Korea with dialogue and humanitarian aid since taking office in February, expressed exasperation Tuesday with what she called the "endless vicious cycle" of Seoul answering Pyongyang's hostile behavior with compromise, only to get more hostility. U.S. and South Korean defense officials have said they've seen nothing to indicate that Pyongyang is preparing for a major military action.

State Department spokesman Patrick Ventrell said there was "no specific information to suggest imminent threat to U.S. citizens or facilities" in South Korea. The U.S. Embassy has neither changed its security posture nor recommended U.S. citizens take special precautions, he said.

Still, the United States and South Korea have raised their defense postures, as has Japan, which deployed PAC-3 missile interceptors in key locations around Tokyo on Tuesday as a precaution against possible North Korean ballistic missile tests.

In Rome, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon described the tensions as "very dangerous" and said that "any small incident caused by miscalculation or misjudgment" may "create an uncontrollable situation." Also Tuesday, citing the tension, North Korea pulled out all 53,000 workers from the Kaesong industrial park, which combines South Korean technology and know-how with cheap North Korean labor. It was the first time that production was stopped at the complex, the only remaining product of economic cooperation between the countries that began about a decade ago when relations were much warmer. Other projects from previous eras of cooperation such as reunions of families separated by war and tours to a scenic North Korean mountain have been suspended in recent years.

Though the North Korean Foreign Ministry advised foreign embassies to evacuate, tourism officials are continuing to welcome visitors. □

U.S. says hacking undermines China's interests

CHRISTOPHER BODEEN
Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Hacking that originates inside China is undermining its relationship with the United States and harms Beijing's long-term interests, a U.S. diplomat said Tuesday, in the latest high-level public expression of concern over a problem that has prompted threats of commercial retaliation from Washington.

The U.S. believes cyber intrusions originating from China that result in the theft of sensitive information have reached very high levels, adding to existing problems with the lack of protection for intellectual property rights, said Robert Hormats, the U.S. undersecretary of state for economic growth.

He urged China to take firm action against hacking and said Chinese officials need to question whether such activity "serves China's real interests" as it seeks to upgrade its economy, the world's second largest.



U.S. Undersecretary of State for Economic Growth, Robert Hormats attends the 6th US-China Internet Industry forum in Beijing, China, Tuesday, April 9, 2013.

Associated Press

"The long-term interest of the Chinese government is to investigate and halt these cyber intrusions wherever in this country they come from," Hormats said. "The U.S. government is taking an active role in addressing this issue and we continue to raise our concerns with senior Chinese officials."

Hormats' comments in an address to an Internet industry conference in Beijing follow a forensically de-

tailed report by Internet security company Mandiant that accused a Chinese military unit of carrying out a yearslong hacking attack against U.S. companies. China's government and military deny carrying out cyberattacks. A senior Chinese official attending the conference repeated Beijing's contention that Beijing was itself a victim of hacking.

"Our opposition to all forms of hacking is clear and

consistent," said Qian Xiaoqian, a vice minister and deputy director of the State Internet Information Office. "Lately people have been cooking up a theory of a Chinese Internet threat, which is just an extension of the old 'China threat' and just as groundless," Qian said.

Such statements seem to be doing little to allay concerns over a suspected official role in wholesale hacking linked to China. Foreign military and government organizations have been targeted by the attacks, as well as private companies, including those in sensitive industries such as energy and aerospace.

Craig Mundie, a senior adviser to the CEO of Microsoft, a sponsor of the conference, said that regardless of whether China-based hacking was the work of rogue actors, Beijing's efforts to stop it are clearly not effective.

"And given that China's policy position is that such activity is absolutely illegal, our two countries clearly

need to work together to figure out how to enforce that policy more effectively, because right now the evidence suggests China's policy enforcement approaches are not working adequately," Mundie said. Mandiant, a Virginia-based cybersecurity firm, released a torrent of details in February that tied a secret Chinese military unit in Shanghai to years of cyberattacks that compromised more than 140 companies. Mandiant linked the breaches to the People's Liberation Army's Unit 61398.

In response to the hacking reports, the Obama administration has been considering fines and other trade actions against China or any other country guilty of cyberespionage.

However, the administration is expected to proceed cautiously because of the issue's sensitivity, and Hormats and other conference attendees repeatedly called for communication and joint efforts against hacking rather than outright confrontation. □

More radioactive water leaking at Japan nuke plant

MARI YAMAGUCHI

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — The operator of Japan's crippled nuclear power plant said Tuesday that it had detected a fresh leak of radioactive water from one of the facility's storage tanks.

Tokyo Electric Power Co. previously said two of seven huge underground tanks at the Fukushima Daiichi plant had been leaking since Saturday if not earlier. The latest leak involves a tank that was being used to take water from one of the two that were leaking, TEPCO spokesman Masayuki Ono said. Up to 120 tons might have leaked from one of the tanks and smaller amount from the other two, but none of the radioactive water was believed to have reached the ocean, he said.

TEPCO has halted the transfer of water to the third tank, diverting it to a fourth tank that remains intact. Two of the seven tanks are

currently unused.

Ono said TEPCO has decided to stop using the two most damaged of the three leaking tanks as soon as they are emptied, but will use the other because of a tank shortage.

"We admit that the underground tanks are not reliable," Ono said. "But we must keep using some of them that are relatively in good shape while monitoring them closely. We just don't have enough tanks on the ground that can accommodate the water."

The tanks are crucial to the management of contaminated water used to cool melted fuel rods at the plant's reactors, which were damaged in March 2011 by an earthquake and tsunami. They have since stabilized significantly but the melted fuel inside must be kept cool with water, which leaks out of the reactors' holes and ruptures and flows into basement areas. Plant workers

are scrambling to find extra tanks at the plant and believe they can find space from unused containers and underground tanks. The plant is being decommissioned but continues to experience glitches. A fuel storage pool temporarily lost its cooling system Friday, less than a month after the plant suffered a more extensive outage caused by a rat that short-circuited a switchboard, cutting off power to four storage pools for fuel rods and other key facilities.

The spate of problems has triggered public outcry and renewed doubts about the plant's safety. TEPCO resident Naomi Hirose headed to Fukushima on Tuesday to inspect the latest problems and address the concerns. Regulatory officials said TEPCO was too slow in detecting earlier signs of leaks and disclosing the problems.

The underground tanks, all built by Maeda Corp.,



This March 11, 2012 file photo shows storage tanks for radiation-contaminated water in the compound of the tsunami-crippled Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant in Okuma, Fukushima Prefecture, northeastern Japan.

Associated Press.

come in different sizes, including one the size of an Olympic-size swimming pool and similar to an industrial waste dump, are dug into the ground and protected by two layers of polyethylene linings inside the outermost clay-based lining, with a felt padding in between each layer.

Ono said TEPCO hasn't determined the cause of the leak, but cited a hole or a partial detachment of the linings as a possibility. Regulators also suspect a design problem of the underground tanks, which TEPCO allegedly chose as cheaper option to steel tanks to save money. □

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A chicken is kept inside a cage at a wholesale poultry market in Hong Kong Monday, April 8, 2013. Associated Press

SAfrica: H7N1 bird flu found in ostrich farm

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — South African officials say they have detected bird flu on an ostrich farm but that it is unrelated to the strain that has killed eight people in China. Still, the discovery is another blow for an industry that has lost 40 percent of its 50,000 farmers since the European Union imposed a ban on imports of South African ostrich meat after a 2011 outbreak.

Then, officials killed 50,000 birds infected with the H5N2 strain.

Western Cape agriculture chief Gerrit van Rensburg said Tuesday that officials detected the H7N1 strain near the southwestern town of Oudtshoorn. He said they had quarantined farms in a three-kilometer (two-mile) radius for an intensive epidemiological investigation.

Van Rensburg says the impact of the new outbreak would be clearer once test results come in. □

Lendl to display collection of art nouveau posters

PRAGUE (AP) — Tennis star Ivan Lendl is displaying his full collection of posters by the Czech art nouveau painter Alphonse Mucha for the first time.

The eight-time Grand Slam winner's collection of 116 posters is being exhibited in Prague's Municipal House, an art nouveau architectural landmark that Mucha helped decorate.

Lendl began collecting the works in the early 1980s. Mucha created the bulk of the work from 1894-1935.

The show opens on Wednesday and runs through July. Organizers say there's interest in displaying the collection in other countries, including Japan, China and Russia.

The former tennis star was born in what was communist Czechoslovakia before becoming a U.S. citizen. He is expected to attend the exhibition later this month. □



A family group of Nobel laureate Pablo Neruda, carries the coffin containing the remains of the poet during its exhumation in Isla Negra, Chile, Monday April 8, 2013. Associated Press

Chile successfully exhumes body of poet Neruda

EVA VERGARA
Associated Press

ISLA NEGRA, Chile (AP) — Chilean forensic experts exhumed the body of Nobel laureate Pablo Neruda on Monday, trying to solve a four-decade mystery about the death of one the greatest poets of the 20th century.

The official version is that the poet died from prostate cancer and the trauma of witnessing the 1973 military coup that led to the persecution and killing of many of his friends. But his driver and many other Chileans say Neruda was murdered by agents of Gen. Augusto Pinochet's brutal dictatorship.

Experts were concerned that high salinity and humidity could affect the exhumation at Neruda's home in Isla Negra, a rocky outcropping overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

But Patricio Bustos, head of Chile's medical legal service, said Neruda's casket is in good shape after the one-hour exhumation.

After draping Neruda's coffin in the Chilean national flag, forensics workers took his remains to the capital for tests.

They could also be analyzed abroad and Bustos said they have offers from labs in the United States and Europe.

"After we take a look at our lab, following the biomedical safety measures and with total vigilance, we will be able to set a timeline for the process," Bustos told reporters.

"The most complex part will be searching for toxic substances that could not only be classic poisons, but also, according to testimonies, could be medical substances at very high doses to harm the poet."

Neruda, who won the Nobel prize for literature in 1971, was best known for romantic verses, especially the collection "Twenty Love Poems and a Song of Despair."

He was also a leftist diplomat and close friend of socialist President Salvador Allende, who committed suicide rather than surrender to troops during the Sept. 11, 1973 coup led by Pinochet.

Neruda planned to go into exile, where he would have been an influential voice against the dictatorship. Just a day before he was scheduled to leave, he was taken by ambulance to the Santa Maria hospital in Santiago to keep him safe from political persecution.

Officially, Neruda died there on Sept. 23 from natural causes related to the emotional trauma of the coup. □

Man kills 13 people in Serbian shooting rampage

DUSAN STOJANOVIC

JOVANA GEC

Associated Press

VELIKA IVANCA, Serbia

(AP) — He went from house to house in the village at dawn, cold-bloodedly gunning down his mother, his son, a 2-year-old cousin and 10 other neighbors. Terrified residents said if a police patrol car hadn't shown up, they all would have been dead.

Police said they knew of no motive yet in the carnage Tuesday that left six men, six women and a child dead in Velika Ivanka, a Serbian village 50 kilometers (30 miles) southeast of Belgrade.

After the rampage, police said suspect Ljubisa Bogdanovic, a 60-year-old who saw action in one of the bloodiest sieges of the Balkan wars, turned his gun on himself and his wife as authorities closed in. Both were in grave condition at a hospital in the Serbian capital.

In the small lush village surrounded by fruit trees, the suspect's older brother Radmilo broke down in



Radmilo Bogdanovic, brother of Ljubisa Bogdanovic cries in village of Velika Ivanka, Serbia, Tuesday, April 9, 2013.

Associated Press

tears, unable to explain why the massacre had happened.

"Why did he do it? ... I still can't believe it," he said sobbing, covering his face with his hands. "He was a model of honesty."

"As a child, he was a frightened little boy. I used to defend him from other children. He couldn't even slaughter a chicken," he said.

But he said his brother had changed after serving in the army during a brutal Serb-led offensive against the eastern Croatian town of Vukovar in 1992 — the worst bloodshed during Croatia's 1991-95 war for independence.

"The war had burdened him," Radmilo, 62, told The Associated Press in an interview. "He used to tell me: God forbid you live through what I went through ... Something must have clicked in his head

for him to do this."

Twelve people in the village were killed immediately between 5 a.m. and 5:30 a.m. and one person died later in a Belgrade hospital, Serbian police chief Milorad Veljovic said. "Most of the victims were shot while they were asleep," Veljovic told reporters. "The most harrowing scene discovered by police was the dead bodies of a young mother and her 2-year-old son."

Although such mass shootings are relatively rare in Serbia, weapons are readily available, mostly from the 1990s wars in the Balkans. Media reports said the suspect had a license for the handgun and police said he had lost his job last year at a wood-processing factory.

Serbian Prime Minister Ivica Dacic said the killings showed that the government must pay more attention to gun control and other social problems facing the Balkan nation, which is still reeling from the 1990s wars. His government held an emergency session and proclaimed Wednesday a national day of mourning.

Residents said Bogdanovic first killed his son and his mother before leaving his house and then began shooting his neighbors. They expressed deep shock, describing the suspect as a quiet, helpful man.

"He knocked on the doors and as they were opened he just fired a shot," said villager Radovan Radosavljevic. "He was a good neighbor and anyone would open their doors to him. I don't know what happened."

"I never saw him angry, ever," said Milovan Kostadinovic, another resident. "He was helping everybody, he had a car and drove us everywhere."

Still, neighbors said an entire five-member family was shot dead in one house, including the small boy who was the suspected killer's cousin.

Kostadinovic said the suspect was confronted by police while en route to his house.

"If they didn't stop him, he would have wiped us all out," Kostadinovic said, standing in front of his two-story, red tile-roofed house. □



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French forces step up efforts in Mali's Gao region



In this Feb. 7, 2013 file photo, a Malian soldier walks in Gao, northern Mali.

Associated Press

BABA AHMED

Associated Press

BAMAKO, Mali (AP) — French military forces launched a fresh offensive Monday against jihadists in the northern Malian region

of Gao who have staged a series of attacks since being ousted from power earlier this year, a French colonel said.

By nightfall, no direct fighting had been reported be-

tween French forces and the radical Islamic fighters from MUJAO, or Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa. The French troops were proceeding cautiously because one of the French hostages being held by the al-Qaida-linked militants is believed to be in the area.

France has been talking about reducing its presence in its former colony in the coming months, but also has said it aims to keep about 1,000 soldiers there. In describing the latest offensive, French Col. Emmanuel Dosseur said his forces don't want to give the impression that they're going to "abandon our Malian friends." □



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Iran says 37 killed in earthquake in south



An Iranian woman receives medical treatment after an earthquake struck southern Iran, in Shonbeh, Iran, Tuesday, April 9, 2013.

Associated Press

NASSER KARIMI
Associated Press
TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — A 6.1 magnitude earthquake killed at least 37 and injured hundreds more in a sparsely populated area in southern Iran on Tuesday, Iranian officials said, adding that it did not damage a nuclear plant in the region.

The report said the earthquake struck the town of Kaki some 96 kilometers (60 miles) southeast of Bushehr, a town on the Persian Gulf that is home of Iran's first nuclear power plant, built with Russian help.

"No damage was done to Bushehr power plant," Bushehr provincial governor Fereidoun Hasanzadeh told state TV. He said 37 people had died so far and 850 were injured, including 100 who were hospitalized. The plant's chief, Mahmoud Jafari, confirmed the site's condition to semi-

official Mehr news agency, saying that it is resistant to earthquakes of up to magnitude eight.

Water and electricity were cut to many residents, said Ebrahim Darvishi, governor of the worst-hit district of Shonbeh.

The UN's nuclear watchdog agency said on its website that it had been informed by Iran that there was no damage to the plant and no radioactive release and, based on its analysis of the earthquake, was not seeking additional information.

The International Atomic Energy Agency statement indicated that it was satisfied there was little danger. Shahpour Rostami, the deputy governor of Bushehr province, told state TV that rescue teams have been deployed to Shonbeh.

Three helicopters were sent to survey the damaged

area before sunset, said Mohammad Mozaffar, the head of Iran's Red Crescent rescue department. He said damage was particularly bad in the village of Baghan.

Kaki resident Mondani Hosseini told The Associated Press that people had run out into the streets out of fear.

Dozens of aftershocks have been reported by the official IRNA news agency since the earthquake, which occurred at 16:22 local time, 11:58 GMT.

Iran announced three days of mourning.

The quake was felt across the Gulf in Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar, where workers were evacuated from high-rise buildings as a precaution. Earlier on Sunday a lighter earthquake jolted the nearby area. Iran is located on seismic faults and

it experiences frequent earthquakes.

In 2003, some 26,000 people were killed by a 6.6 magnitude quake that flattened the historic southeastern city of Bam.

In Russia, the head of the state agency responsible for the Bushehr project said the reactor was not

producing fission by chain reaction when the tremor occurred.

"Personnel at the station are continuing to work in a normal regime, the radiation conditions are within the norms of natural background," Igor Mezenin was quoted as saying by the ITAR-Tass news agency. □

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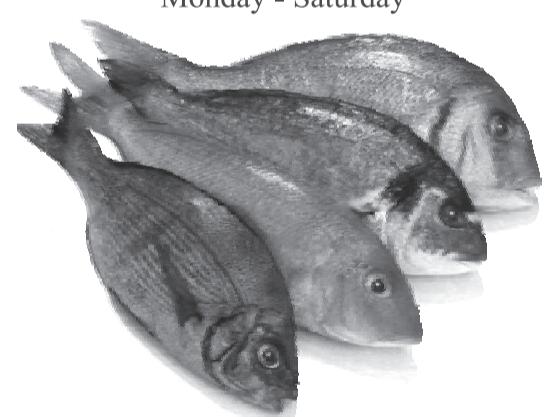
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Iran unveils uranium sites, renews defiant tone

ALI AKBAR DAREINI

BRIAN MURPHY

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — With words of defiance, Iran announced two nuclear-related projects Tuesday that expand capabilities to extract and process uranium — modest advances in Tehran's atomic efforts but ones symbolic of its refusal to slow nuclear work even as talks with world powers over the disputed program remain deadlocked.

The twin sites reflect Tehran's goal of greater self-sufficiency through the entire nuclear fuel cycle from uranium mines to enrichment labs.

Yet the timing — just days after the latest round of negotiations ended again in stalemate — reinforces a broader suggestion that Iran plans to push ahead with nuclear projects even at the potential risk of threatening the dialogue with U.S. and other envoys.

It also could amplify questions about Iran's commitment to the talks — which have, for the moment, hushed earlier talk among its adversaries about military options — and embolden calls by some U.S. lawmakers for even tougher sanctions.

Iran's gambit appears built around its drive for formal acknowledgment from Washington and other capitals of its "right" to enrich uranium, the process to make nuclear fuel. Iran, in tandem, wants the West to pull back on sanctions in exchange for some nuclear compromises.

The West and its allies, however, seek to rein in Iran's nuclear efforts and fear that the enrichment program could one day produce material for atomic weapons.

Iran says it only seeks nuclear reactors for energy and medical use. But the tone from Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was taunting on Tuesday to mark the anniversary of Iran's first uranium enrichment in 2006.

"You could not block our access to nuclear technol-



In this photo released by the official website of the office of the Iranian Presidency, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, center, speaks in a ceremony commemorating Iran's National Day of Nuclear Technology in Tehran, Iran, Tuesday, April 9, 2013.

Associated Press

ogy when we didn't have it. How can you take it from our hands now that we have it?" he said, addressing the West.

"Iran has gone nuclear," he added, reiterating past declarations that Iran has comprehensive nuclear expertise. "Nobody will be able to stop it ... Cooperation with the Iranian nation is the best solution for you." In Jerusalem, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry repeated that Washington remained "open to negotiation" within limits. He later called the expanded uranium work "not constructive."

"But it is not open-ended, endless negotiation," he said following talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, whose nation has warned it could consider military strikes against Iranian nuclear sites. "It cannot be used as an excuse for other effort to try to break out with respect to a nuclear weapon."

Kerry added: "President (Barack) Obama could not be more clear: Iran cannot have and will not have a nuclear weapon."

Mounting nuclear threats from North Korea, meanwhile, have only added to international worries about allowing the Iranian dialogue to drift indefinitely.

"I think everybody understands that Iran is running out the clock, has been using the talks to continue to advance its nuclear programs," Netanyahu said, citing the reports of two new uranium sites in Iran. Neither represents breakout technology. Iran already has uranium mines and the ability to turn the raw ore into a material called yellowcake, which is the first step in the enrichment chain.

But the new facilities — expansion in the country's largest uranium mine and processing facility — give Tehran greater access and control in making the raw materials for enrichment to nuclear fuel and, potentially, for warhead-grade material.

State TV simultaneously showed ceremonies at Iran's biggest uranium mine at Saghund and a uranium ore concentrate production plant in Ardekan, both in central Iran.

Saghund consists of an open pit with a deep mine reached by two shafts of more than 335 meters (1,100 feet), according to the official IRNA news agency. The mine has a reported capacity of 132,000 tons of uranium ore per year.

The Ardekan Yellowcake Production Plant is Iran's industrial-scale facility that turns ore into concentrate, also known as yellowcake, the feedstock for enrichment. IRNA said the plant is capable of producing 66 tons of yellowcake. About 200 tons is needed to produce enough nuclear fuel to run an energy-producing reactor — similar to Iran's lone reactor in the Persian Gulf port of Bushehr — for a year, nuclear experts say.

Iranian nuclear scientist Hossein Afarideh claimed the country has "already achieved proficiency in the entire nuclear fuel cycle," but said the expanded uranium capabilities helps "stabilize Iran's nuclear technology."

In London, British Foreign Secretary William Hague told reporters that Britain

has not given up on the talks, but would not rule out further sanctions.

"It isn't helpful at all in this process for Iran to make new announcements in the nuclear field," Hague said.

Iran also has a considerable stock of yellowcake acquired from South Africa in the 1970s under the former U.S.-backed shah's original nuclear program. It also has other supplies of yellowcake obtained from China before U.N. sanctions came into effect.

"These announcements weren't about game-changers as far as Iran's nuclear program. They are political messages after the last failed round of talks," said Theodore Karasik, a security and political affairs analyst at the Dubai-based Institute for Near East and Gulf Military Analysis.

"It's Iran saying, 'We are not slowing down and this has to be taken into account in the talks.'"

There is no date set to resume the dialogue between Iran and the six-nation group — the five permanent U.N. Security Council members plus Germany — after last week's round in Kazakhstan failed to break the impasse.

But Tuesday's announcement brought some parallels with past talks that also failed to gain ground. In December 2010, on the eve of negotiations in Geneva with the same six-nation group, Iran said it was producing yellowcake for the first time.

Kerry, too, drew connections between broken agreements by North Korea over uranium enrichment and Iran's new uranium sites as both "provocative."

"To open up yellowcake production and to make any step that increases the rapidity with which you move toward enriched fissile material raises the potential of questions, if not even threat, and I think that is not constructive," Kerry told reporters before leaving Israel. □

LOCAL Aruba TODAY

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Palm Beach – Over the last weekend the Grand Caribbean Ballroom at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa entertained a great number of tattoo aficionados for the first annual Tattoo Convention. The program included live tattooing and piercing, unique vendors, old school bikes and rat rods, bikini contests, guest appear-

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PALM BEACH, ARUBA (April

8, 2013)–Hyatt Corporation announced that they has been named a recipient of the 2013 Gallup Great Workplace Award. This is the second year Hyatt has received the award, which is based on the most rigorous workplace research ever conducted.

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Caribbean Palm Village Resort Appreciates Long Term Careers



Noord —Monica Kock, a dynamic housekeeper at Caribbean Palm Village Resort was recognized by management as she completed five years of service. Interim General Manager Astrid Muller explained Monica has forged excellent relationships with the resort's guests delivering personal service with a unique Monica-touch.



The Caribbean Palm Village Resort is celebrating its 26th anniversary in 2013. As a timeshare property, it enjoys the loyalty of many repeat visitors who bought timeshare units when the place was still under construction. Employees such as Monica, says Muller,

strengthen the ties guests have with the resort, making them feel truly at home, resulting in a rewarding experience for both guests on their vacation and employees on the job. Pictured here Monica Kock with the resort executives, receiving the customary envelope and heartfelt appreciation. □

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Caribbean Queen Presents

Visual Artist, Art Professor, Marketing Manager, Director of Aruba Art au Plateau Foundation, Desiree Rep-Sporkslede



Palm Beach – The Caribbean Queen store at the Palm Beach Plaza Mall is proud to introduce its Caribbean Queen for April,

Visual Artist, Art Professor, Marketing Manager, Director of Aruba Art au Plateau Foundation, Desiree Rep-Sporkslede.



Inspired by Earth Day and the need to instill awareness and appreciation of the earth's environment, April's Caribbean Queen



speaks a "green language," wishing to teach it to the rest of the world. As a collector of all things unwanted and discarded, Desiree is using materials she ferreted away in her home, recycling them and creating new objects, now on display at Caribbean Queen, Palm Beach Plaza Mall.

Her ties to Suriname and the rest of the Caribbean are also sources of inspiration, as well as other relevant contemporary issues. The Caribbean, she says, is no longer isolated; we are citizens of the world and can no longer be regarded as primitive or exotic. Her show at Caribbean Queen is all about communication, meeting and greeting people, and affecting them in a myriad of ways, for example, encouraging them to stop hoarding and allowing discarded things and thoughts to take up so much of their valuable space. She explains that recycling makes a difference in our environment, in the wise use of our natural resources, and in the economic well-being of our countries.

Desiree graduated from the University of Rotterdam in the Netherlands, where she nurtured her artistic abilities in a fine arts program in 1989. Fascinated by the mystical landscape and curious about her own background, she moved to Aruba in 1990. Painting in acrylics and various media and using fragments



of environmental waste, Desiree creates symbolic art that traces her diverse cultural heritage. Besides paintings, she also makes installations that are bold using mixed media such as iron and organic materials, including local shrubs. The multicultural aspect of the cities she has lived in, such as The Hague, Rotterdam, and Amsterdam, is very present in her work. She also exchanges ideas and artistic pursuits with members of the local art community here, including some well-established artists in the fields of photography, literature, poetry, and prose. "It is always challenging," she says, "to express my personal emotions and the miracles in my life, the way it reveals itself in thoughts and feelings, always beyond my imagination." With dozens of exhibitions and art projects to her credit in Aruba, Curaçao and the Netherlands, Desiree Rep-Sporkslede takes the spotlight again as her collection is featured at Caribbean Queen for the whole month of April. □

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**Kessel lifts
Maple Leafs
to 4-3 win
over
Rangers**

The Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Phil Kessel scored twice to lead the Toronto Maple Leafs to a 4-3 win over the New York Rangers on Monday to open an important home-and-home series between the Eastern Conference rivals.

Toronto (22-13-4) remained fifth in the Eastern Conference standings, moving four points ahead of idle Ottawa with its fifth win in six games.

Derek Stepan pulled New York into a 3-3 tie at 9:00 of the third period, but Kessel put Toronto back ahead 39 seconds later.

The Rangers (19-16-4) remain tied with the idle New York Islanders for seventh in the Eastern Conference with 42 points.

James van Riemsdyk and Ryan O'Byrne also scored for Toronto.

Rick Nash had the other two goals for New York.

BRUINS 6, HURRICANES 2

BOSTON (AP) — Brad Marchand scored two goals, Tuukka Rask stopped 40 shots, and Boston scored a season-high in goals while winning for the fourth time in five games.

Rich Peverley, Andrew Ference, Jordan Caron and Nathan Horton each added a goal, and defenseman Dennis Seidenberg established a career-high with three assists for Boston, which moved a point behind Montreal in the Northeast Division.

Continued on Page 20

BREWERS BEST



Milwaukee ends five-game slide

Milwaukee Brewers' Carlos Gomez breaks his bat after striking out swinging during the seventh inning of a baseball game against the Chicago Cubs in Chicago, Monday, April 8, 2013. Associated Press
Page 20

Ex-players call NFL brain-injury panel a 'sham'

MARYCLAIRE DALE

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) —

Lisa McHale wishes her husband had lived long enough to learn more about the links between concussions and long-term brain injuries.

Her husband Tom, an All-Ivy athlete who played in 87 NFL games from 1987 to 1995, died of an overdose in 2008 after battling depression and a painkiller addiction. An autopsy later showed he suffered from traumatic brain injuries. But she said it helps that more players now go public with their neurological problems, including some of the thousands now suing the NFL over concussions.

"To know it wasn't his fault, that there was something going on neurologically, it helps," McHale said in Philadelphia on Tuesday, where lawyers for the NFL and for more than 4,200 former players argued over whether the complaints belong in federal court or, as the NFL believes, in arbitration.

A lawyer for the former players argued that the NFL "glorified" violence and profited from damaging hits to the head.



Former NFL player Dorsey Levens, right, extends a hand as Mary Ann Easterling, the widow of former NFL player Ray Easterling, reacts as former NFL player Kevin Turner, left, looks on during a news conference, Tuesday, April 9, 2013, in Philadelphia, after a hearing to determine whether the NFL faces years of litigation over concussion-related brain injuries.

Associated Press

Players' lawyer David Frederick also accused the league of concealing the emerging science linking concussions to neurological problems for decades, even after the NFL created a Mild Traumatic Brain Injury committee in 1994. The panel was led by a rheumatologist.

"It set up a sham committee designed to get information about neurological risks, but in fact spread misinformation," Frederick

argued at the pivotal federal hearing to determine if the complaints will remain in federal court.

U.S. District Judge Anita Brody's decision could be worth billions to either side. About one-third of the league's 12,000 former players have joined the litigation. Some are battling dementia, depression or Alzheimer's disease, and fault the league for rushing them back on the field after concussions. Others are

worried about future problems and want their health monitored. A handful, including popular Pro Bowler Junior Seau, have committed suicide.

NFL lawyer Paul Clement insisted that teams bear the chief responsibility for health and safety under the players' collective bargaining agreement, along with the players and their union. "The clubs are the ones who had doctors on the sidelines who had

primary responsibility for sending players back into the game," Clement said at a news conference after the court hearing.

Brody appeared most interested in whether the contract specifies that head injuries are workplace safety issues that belong in arbitration.

"It has to be really specific. That's what I have to wrestle with," she said.

Frederick called the contract "silent" on latent head injuries, and said players therefore have the right to seek damages in court. Brody is not expected to rule for several months, and the case could take years to play out if her ruling is appealed, as expected. Players and relatives on hand for the hearing included Kevin Turner, a former Philadelphia Eagles running back now battling Lou Gehrig's disease; Dorsey Levens, a veteran running back who made a 2012 documentary on concussions called "Bell Rung" and Mary Ann Easterling, whose husband, former Atlanta safety Ray Easterling, was the lead plaintiff in the litigation before he committed suicide last year. □

U.S. women beat Netherlands 3-1 in friendly



Christen Press of the U.S., center with number 23, and Daphne Koster of The Netherlands, left, vie for the ball during the international friendly women's soccer match at ADO The Hague stadium, Netherlands, Tuesday April 9, 2013. Associated Press

MIKE CORDER

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

(AP) — Christen Press scored twice as the United

States women's team beat the Netherlands 3-1 in a friendly Tuesday to stretch its unbeaten streak to 31 matches. U.S. coach Tom

Sermanni kept his most experienced stars on the bench, but his team had plenty of players ready to step in and keen to prove themselves.

Tobin Heath and Press scored before the break for the Olympic champions, and Press added a third on the hour to bring her international tally to six goals in only seven matches. "She's done that all year," Sermanni said. "The composure in the finishing has been outstanding. Both goals she took tonight were two excellent striker's goals."

The Dutch attacked whenever they got the chance, and it finally paid off in the 81st minute when Manon Melis lobbed Ashlyn Harris to make it 3-1.

Sydney Leroux set up both first-half goals, pro-

viding the touch of class the Americans needed to break down a stubborn defense. "She's a handful. For 90 minutes, she's the type of player you don't want to be playing against," Sermanni said. "I felt sorry for her tonight, she was desperate to score and didn't quite get on target."

The Dutch had earlier twice cleared efforts off their own line, and goalkeeper Loes Geurts tipped over a powerful long-range drive by Yael Averbuch before the team finally succumbed to the relentless pressure.

Abby Wambach stayed on the bench, frustrating her attempt to catch all-time top scorer Mia Hamm's tally of 158 goals. Wambach has 155. Captain Christie Rampone and experienced midfielder Shannon Boxx also started

on the bench.

Despite Press's prolific scoring this year, Wambach doesn't need to start worrying about her place in the team just yet.

"Abby's still your key player, your go-to player," Sermanni said. "At this time of the year, this is a great opportunity for me to look at other players."

The Americans started their trip to Europe with a 3-3 draw at No. 2-ranked Germany in Offenbach on Friday, conceding two late goals.

They never looked like giving this one away.

Sermanni, in his eighth match since taking over the team, made 10 changes to the side that drew with Germany, taking stock of a squad with possibly an eye on World Cup qualifying late next year. □

Is Tiger of old back for the Masters?

TIM DAHLBERG

AP Sports Columnist

AUGUSTA, Georgia (AP) — He's got a swing he can finally trust, a putter that shows flashes of the old magic, and a string of wins to prove that it's all finally coming together.

The superstar girlfriend is an added bonus, though by now so much time has passed that the debate about Tiger Woods revolves around the state of his game, not his personal life. Winning may not take care of everything, as his latest Nike ad claims. But six wins in his comeback are a confidence-inducing tonic for Woods, and the commercial is certainly more upbeat than the one Nike ran two years ago with his late father ominously asking him what he could have been thinking.

Woods is more upbeat, too, and with good reason. When last seen here a year ago he was kicking clubs, missing putts and muttering to himself about chances gone awry. He didn't break par in four rounds, and left with barely enough prize money to fuel up his private jet.

Now he's a heavy favorite to win his fifth Masters and kick start his pursuit of Jack Nicklaus in the majors. The swagger that has always suited him so well seems to be back, and the way he was talking Tuesday this might not be a good year to bet against him.

"I feel comfortable with every aspect of my game," Woods said.

Woods could have been talking about his life, too. More than once during his pre-Masters news conference he did, especially when speaking of the joys of fatherhood and how he can teach his children the basics of golf in the backyard short game complex at his South Florida mansion.

Lindsey Vonn wasn't mentioned at all, but she has to figure in all this newfound bliss, too. Just a few weeks ago, Woods and the Olympic skiing champion announced they were in a relationship in a series of

photos both posted on social media sites. And while Woods is normally taciturn to a fault in interviews, he laughed, had a few funny lines, and was more introspective than usual in the press center on Tuesday. "I think it's just a balance, a balance in life," Woods said. "I think that's what you're seeing." Whether it all translates into another green jacket is anyone's guess. Golf is a funny game even for Tiger Woods, and the tricky greens of Augusta National have derailed his high hopes before.

He won four Masters in a nine-year stretch after breaking through with his historic win in 1997, but he hasn't celebrated here since 2005.

This is a Masters he badly — almost desperately — needs, and not just to completely validate his comeback from injuries and marriage scandal. The clock is ticking on his chase of the Nicklaus record of 18 major championships — Woods has 14 — and the player who once held all four major titles at

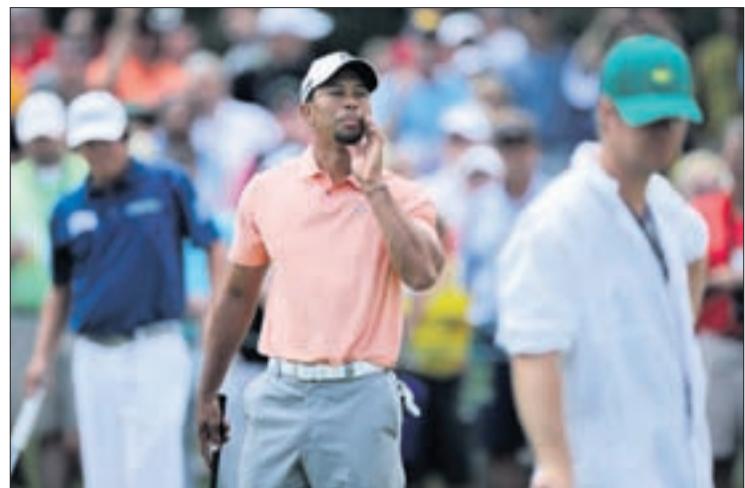
once has now gone almost five years without winning even one.

He's 37 now, not an advanced age by any stretch for a golfer. But Woods has been playing the Masters for half his life — this will be his 19th time competing — and as each year goes by another opportunity slips away. There's a 14-year-old from China who wasn't even born when Woods won in 1997 in the field this week and if Woods had to be reminded about time passing by, he was by a question about what age he would entertain becoming a ceremonial starter in the Masters like Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer.

"Let me just try to get to 40 first," he said.

Woods is still the No. 1 player in the world — taking over from Rory McIlroy after winning at Bay Hill earlier this year — but his drought at the majors is more often the subject of conversation than the fact he has rebuilt his game and is winning again.

That's partly his own fault, since he has focused al-



Tiger Woods yells out to his caddie on the driving range during a practice round for the Masters golf tournament Tuesday, April 9, 2013, in Augusta, Ga.

Associated Press

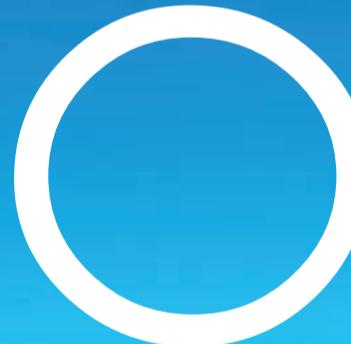
most singularly on them ever since he was growing up in Southern California with a chart of Nicklaus major championship wins on his wall.

"It took Jack a while to get to 18, all the way until he was 46 years old," Woods said. "So there's plenty of opportunities for me."

The first of those opportunities begins Thursday morning on a course he both knows and loves. Woods is a player who tends to win in bunches on certain courses and, aside from last year's lackluster perfor-

mance, Augusta National usually brings out the best in him. His winning drought in majors has been long, but not terribly surprising considering he had to rebuild a knee, a swing and a personal life after winning the U.S. Open on one leg at Torrey Pines.

Woods cautioned repeatedly that at least the knee and swing were a work in progress, but golf at this level also requires a clear head and the kind of focus that made Woods so fearsome in his younger days. □



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Brewers beat Cubs 7-4 to stop 5-game slide

The Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Marco Estrada pitched seven effective innings and doubled home a run Monday, helping the Milwaukee Brewers stop a five-game slide with a 7-4 victory over the Chicago Cubs in the first game of the season at Wrigley Field.

Estrada (1-0) allowed two runs and five hits while bouncing back from a lackluster season debut against Colorado.

The right-hander also drove in Alex Gonzalez with a drive into the gap in right-center during Milwaukee's two-run seventh.

Norichika Aoki collected three more hits and Ryan Braun went 3 for 4 with two doubles after missing Milwaukee's weekend sweep by Arizona due to spasms on the right side of his neck. Wellington Castillo belted a two-run homer for Chicago, which has dropped four in a row and five of six. Edwin Jackson (0-2) was hit hard in his first home game since he signed a \$52 million, four-year contract over the winter, surrendering five runs and eight hits in six innings.

REDS 13, CARDINALS 4

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Brandon Phillips kick-started a nine-



Milwaukee Brewers' Martin Maldonado (12), catcher Jonathan Lucroy, center, and Yuniesky Betancourt (3) celebrate after the Brewers defeated the Chicago Cubs 7-4 in a baseball game in Chicago, Monday, April 8, 2013.

run ninth inning with a tie-breaking bloop double and Shin-Soo Choo made amends for two botched fly balls with a three-run double, and the Reds spoiled the Cardinals' home opener.

Mitchell Boggs (0-1), the stand-in closer for St. Louis, yielded six runs while getting only one out and the Cardinals needed four more pitchers to get out of the ninth.

Phillips added his 150th career homer for the Reds,

who have won six of seven since losing in extra innings to the Angels on opening day.

Jay Bruce had four hits and Chris Heisey doubled twice with an RBI.

Sam LeCure (1-0) pitched an inning for the win.

Cardinals lefty Jamie Garcia matched his career best with 10 strikeouts in 6 2-3 innings and left with a 4-3 lead.

Yadier Molina hit both of the fly balls dropped by Choo in the first and sixth,

and added an RBI single.

BRAVES 2, MARLINS 0

MIAMI (AP) — Justin Upton went 4 for 4, including his sixth home run, and Paul Maholm allowed one hit in seven sharp innings to help Atlanta spoil Miami's home opener.

The Braves earned their fourth consecutive victory and improved to 6-1, their best start since 2007. The Marlins lost their third game in a row and fell to 1-6, their worst start since 2006.

Announced attendance

Associated Press

was 34,439, with thousands of empty seats and many tickets sold at discounted prices.

Some fans pledged to stay away this season because they're angry that owner Jeffrey Loria reverted to a frugal payroll only a year after the team opened a new ballpark built mostly with taxpayer money.

Maholm (2-0) remained unscathed this season in 12 2-3 innings over two starts. He struck out seven and walked three.

Craig Kimbrel struck out Adeiny Hechavarria with two on to complete the two-hitter for his third save.

Upton hit a solo shot for a 2-0 lead against Kevin Slowey (0-2). Atlanta also scored in the fourth when Upton doubled, went to third on a flyout and came home on Dan Uggla's groundout.

METS 7, PHILLIES 2

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Matt Harvey threw seven impressive innings, John Buck hit a three-run homer and the Mets roughed up Roy Halladay in a victory over the Phillies.

Harvey (2-0) followed up a dominant first start with another sharp outing. He gave up one run, three hits and struck out nine.

tance for a short-handed empty-net goal credited to defenseman Dan Hamhuis.

FLAMES 3, AVALANCHE 1

DENVER (AP) — Mike Cammalleri broke a second-period tie and Joey MacDonald stopped 39 shots, helping Calgary snap a 13-game road winless streak.

Roman Cervenka also scored and Alex Tanguay added a short-handed goal to wrap up the win for the Flames in a game that featured the bottom two teams in the NHL. Before Monday, Calgary's last victory away from home was Feb. 17 at Dallas.

Brad Malone scored his first NHL goal for the last-place Avalanche, who have dropped five straight games. □

Continued from page 17

Patrick Dwyer and Drayson Bowman scored for the Hurricanes, who lost for the 12th time in 13 games, 11 of them coming in regulation. Carolina has allowed four or more goals in 10 of its last 14.

DUCKS 2, OILERS 1

ANAHEIM, California (AP) — Radek Dvorak scored two goals, Jonas Hiller made 27 saves after missing four games because of an illness, and Anaheim moved closer to the second Pacific Division title in franchise history and first since its 2006-07 Stanley Cup championship season. The Ducks lead Pittsburgh by one point for the NHL's second-best overall record and trail Chicago by three with eight games remain-

ing. Ryan Getzlaf, Anaheim's captain and leading scorer, missed his third straight game because of a leg injury.

Defenseman Nick Schultz ended a 58-game goal drought and Devan Dubnyk stopped 36 shots for the Oilers, who have lost three straight after a season-best five-game winning streak.

CANUCKS 2, COYOTES 0

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Ryan Kesler scored in his return to the lineup after a 20-game absence, Cory Schneider made 19 saves, and Vancouver moved four points up on idle Minnesota in the Northwest Division standings. Kesler returned from a foot fracture he sustained in his first game back after shoulder and wrist surgeries last summer.



Tears roll down the cheek of former NHL great Mark Messier as he speaks during his induction into the Order of Hockey in Canada in Ottawa, Monday April 8, 2013.

Associated Press

Schneider picked up his fifth shutout of the season, tying Phoenix's Mike Smith and Nashville's Pekka Rinne for first in the NHL.

Schneider and the Canucks had to kill off a pen-

alty with just over a minute left in regulation when Kesler took a tripping penalty in the offensive zone. But Keith Yandle missed a pass from Antoine Vermette and the puck went the dis-



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Hafner, Cano power Yankees past Indians



New York Yankees' Travis Hafner hits a three-run home run off Cleveland Indians starting pitcher Ubaldo Jimenez in the first inning of a home opener baseball game, Monday, April 8, 2013, in Cleveland. Robinson Cano and Kevin Youkilis scored.

Associated Press

The Associated Press
CLEVELAND (AP) — Travis Hafner drove in four runs in his return to Cleveland and Robinson Cano homered twice as injury-riddled New York ruined the Indians' highly anticipated first home game under manager Terry Francona with an 11-6 win Monday. Hafner hit a three-run homer in the first inning off Ubaldo Jimenez (0-1) and added an RBI single in the third. Cano connected in the fifth and sixth for the Yankees.

Hiroki Kuroda (1-1) shook off a shaky, 34-pitch first and showed no signs of being bothered by a bruised right middle finger as the Yankees finally won a home opener after losing their own and Detroit's last week.

Mike Aviles hit a two-run homer in the eighth for Cleveland.

RED SOX 3, ORIOLES 1

BOSTON (AP) — Daniel Nava hit a three-run homer, Clay Buchholz pitched seven shutout innings and the surprising Red Sox won their ninth straight home opener, beating Baltimore. Nava broke open a scoreless duel between Buchholz (2-0) and Wei-Yin Chen (0-1) in the seventh inning with his second homer in two days.

The Red Sox are off to a strong start at 5-2 under new manager John Farrell. Buchholz gave up three hits and three walks and struck out eight.

Andrew Bailey blanked the Orioles in the eighth before Joel Hanrahan allowed a solo homer by Adam Jones in the ninth, but got his third save.

ROYALS 3, TWINS 1

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP) — Ervin Santana pitched eight strong innings, Alcides Escobar doubled home the go-ahead run and

the Royals rallied to beat Minnesota in their home opener.

Santana (1-1), acquired from the Los Angeles Angels on Oct. 31 for minor league left-hander Brandon Sisk, gave up a run and eight singles. He struck out seven, walked one and hit a batter. Santana allowed only four hits after the first inning, when the Twins scored their lone run. Twins right-hander Kevin Correia (0-1) limited the Royals to five singles and no runs the first seven innings before Lorenzo Cain doubled to right-center to lead off the three-run eighth. After Chris Getz's sacrifice bunt moved Cain to third, Alex Gordon singled him home to tie the score.

Escobar's double scored Gordon and chased Correia.

RANGERS 5, RAYS 4

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) —

Joe Nathan picked up his 300th career save when he got Ben Zobrist to look at a disputed strike three as Texas beat Tampa Bay. The Rays scored once in the ninth and had a runner on first with two outs when Zobrist took a full-count pitch and started to take his base. Plate umpire Marty Foster called strike three, and later acknowledged he made the wrong call. A.J. Pierzynski and Mitch Moreland hit consecutive home runs for the Rangers off Jeremy Hellickson (0-1) on his 26th birthday. Alexi Ogando (2-0) allowed

only one run on three hits but needed 89 pitches to get through 5 1-3 innings.

MARINERS 3, ASTROS 0

SEATTLE (AP) — Joe Saunders rebounded from a rough first start to throw 6 1-3 shutout innings and the Seattle Mariners debuted the new look of Safeco Field by sending Houston to its sixth loss in a row.

Kendrys Morales snapped Seattle's 0-for-14 drought with runners in scoring position by chopping an RBI single in the first and adding an RBI double in the third off Philip Humber (0-2). □

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Fertility, Naturally

By: Dr. Carlos Viana

Fecundity or being able to have children has always been an issue. Virtually all cultures have had a means of venerating the Supreme Being as a Divine Female that could be asked to help with fertility problems. Whether you already have child and would like more children or hope to have a family in the future, the physical and psychological health of both partners as well as lifestyle can greatly affect your chances of getting pregnant and having a healthy baby.

Unfortunately, the U.S. National Survey of Family Growth reported that impaired fecundity rose significantly between 1982 and 1995, the biggest increase in women under 25 and it's still rising. Similar, findings from Europe show that 40 percent of men entering the draft in Denmark have low sperm count levels associated with infertility.

If you're under 35 and have been trying to get pregnant for less than a year (or fewer than six months if you're over 35), you have no reason to be concerned yet. To make sure you're doing all you can to enhance your chances of getting pregnant come in for a consultation. If you've had frequent unprotected sex for more than a year (six months if you're over 35) without conceiving, you or your partner may have a condition that's interfering with your chances of conceiving. A doctor can diagnose a fertility problem. Researchers estimate that as many as one in ten couples have trouble getting pregnant and

this is expected to rise. If you're having trouble, that doesn't mean you'll never have children. Many couples need extra time or medical intervention to get pregnant. We have found many of our fecundity (fertility/pregnancy) patients have a health imbalance, emotional stress or simply need sexual education. Our couples have had success using a combination of detoxification, clinical nutrition, couples counseling and Traditional Chinese Medical (TCM) therapies that we offer in our clinic. We have found that by supporting and balancing both partners, we can enhance the positive outcomes.

Women tend to have fertility problems when they have a history of: endometriosis, uterine fibroids, pelvic inflammatory disease, blocked Fallopian tubes from a previous infection or surgery, or chronic illness such as diabetes, cancer, or thyroid disease. Sexually transmitted disease (STD's) can adversely affect chances of getting pregnant.

Women who have painful or irregular periods or excessive facial and body hair have hormonal imbalances impacting fecundity. Finally, women can have pain during intercourse or be allergic to their partner's sperm. Men can have problems if they have a history of: infection with the mumps virus after puberty, diabetes, cancer, thyroid disease, undescended testicles, testicular tumors, cysts or cancer, or varicoceles

(varicose veins in the scrotum.) Heat kills sperm, so tight underwear, hot tub, saunas, and frequent long-distance bike rides can greatly reduce your sperm count.

In both we want to make sure that neither smokes tobacco nor marijuana nor uses alcohol to excess. Studies show that under or overweight couples have a harder time getting pregnant and having a healthy pregnancy.

Reports show that men working with pesticides have higher rates of infertility. Women, whose mother's were exposed to the pesticide, DDT needed increased time to get pregnant. Another fertility and health concern is a chemical used plastics and the lining of cans, bisphenol A (BPA). The latest studies show that men who carry cell phones in pants pocket or clipped to their belts may be exposing their testicles to damaging radiofrequency electromagnetic waves according to Ashok Agarwal, PhD, director of the Center for Reproductive Medicine at the Glickman Urological and Kidney Institute in Cleveland.

Since chemicals, pesticides and cell phones are part of modern life, precautionary methods like using protection and minimizing use and exposure may help. Choose glass over plastic, use natural house cleaners, organic body products and non-toxic garden products.

Besides, lifestyle changes, to increase chance of pregnancy, the woman can keep tract of her basal



body temperature daily and check for changes in cervical mucus to determine her ovulation cycle. New, accurate home fertility scopes are available as well as urine fertility testing for daily charting. When you know your fertile days, planning is easier.

I recommend the man-on-top position which allows for the deepest penetration and places sperm closer to egg. When a woman has an orgasm the mouth of the womb extends to the vaginal floor and picks up the sperm. I recommend woman have an orgasm after their partner. Lastly, stress can affect appetite, emotions, and the hormones required to release the eggs. If you're stressed out, you may ovulate later or not at all. As many couples trying to get pregnant know, feeling anxious and overwhelmed can kill your sex drive.

In early pregnancy a woman's body produces an elevated level of hCG (human chorionic gonadotropin). About 14 days after fertilization (the time you would expect your period) the amount of HCG has increased so that, some home pregnancy tests may be able to detect the hormone in your urine and give you a positive result. Most home pregnancy tests are not sensi-

tive enough to guarantee you an accurate result in a couple of days of conceiving. You're more likely to get an accurate result if you wait until a week after your expected period before testing.

Get the Point! If you really want to increase your chances of getting pregnant and having a healthy baby, before you try artificial methods, come in for a natural fecundity workup. Being healthy before pregnancy, gives your baby a healthy start. We're here to answer your questions. Meanwhile a small offering to a fecundity deity won't hurt.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in Shanghai, China; a Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), a fellow member of the Board Certified Association of Addiction Professionals (C.Ad.), the Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist and specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA NATURAL HEALING CENTER NV, Kibaima 7, Aruba, TEL: 585-1270, Web Site: www.vianaheal.com

Dr. Viana's NEW BOOK: *Prescriptions from Paradise, Introduction to Biocompatible Medicine* – Available at local Bookstores, Hotel Gift shops and Boticas. Signed copies at Viana Healing Center, EBook on www.amazon.com, check for Events at: vianaheal.com or facebook.com/vianahealingcenter. □

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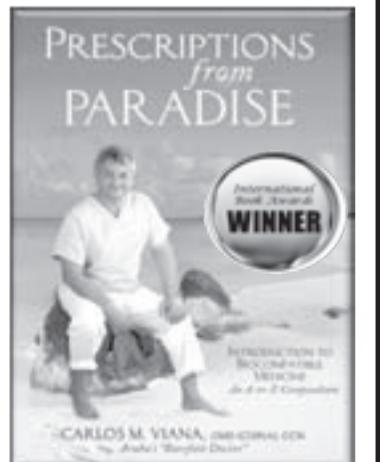
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Microsoft assault on Google shows industry shift

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Microsoft is skewering Google again with ads and regulatory bashing that say as much about the dramatic shift in the technology industry's competitive landscape as they do about the animosity between the two rivals.

The ads that began Tuesday mark the third phase in a 5-month-old marketing campaign that Microsoft Corp. derisively calls "Scroogled." The ads, which have appeared online, on television and in print, depict Google as a duplicitous company more interested in increasing profits and power than protecting people's privacy and providing unbiased search results.

This time, Microsoft is vilifying Google Inc. for sharing some of the personal information that it gathers about people who buy applications designed to run on smartphones and tablet computers powered by Google's Android software. Earlier ads have ripped Google's long-running practice of electronically scanning the contents of people's Gmail accounts to help sell ads. Other ads attacked a recently introduced policy that requires retailers to pay to appear in the shopping section of Google's dominant search engine. "We think we have a better alternative that doesn't do these kinds of nefarious things," said Greg Sullivan, Microsoft's senior manager for Windows Phone, the business taking aim at Google's distribution of personal information about buyers of Android apps.

As Microsoft attacked Google in the United States, a group led by Microsoft asked European authorities to investigate whether Google has been using its free Android operating system to stifle competition from other mobile services besides its own. One such rival is Microsoft's Windows Phone system.

The barbs on both sides of the Atlantic could back-

fire. Even as they help draw attention to Google practices that may prod some consumers to try different services, they also serve as a reminder of Microsoft's mostly futile — and costly — attempts to trump its rival with more compelling technology.

"It's always the underdog that does negative advertising like this, and there is no doubt that Microsoft is now the underdog," said Jonathan Weber, who has been following Microsoft's "Scroogled" campaign at search consulting firm LunaMetrics. On the flip side, Google has evolved from an endearing Internet startup to an imposing giant running Web and mobile services that vacuum intimate details about people's lives. Despite repeated management assurances about respecting personal privacy, Google has experienced several lapses that have resulted in regulatory fines, settlements and scorn around the world.

Beyond privacy, Google has been portrayed as an abusive bully in various complaints about its business practices.

On Tuesday, the Microsoft-led FairSearch group complained that Google has acted unfairly by requiring device makers relying on its Android software to install an entire suite of Google's mobile services, even if they just wanted one or two apps, such as Google Maps or YouTube. That still hasn't prevented device makers from redesigning Android to suit their own purposes. Amazon.com Inc., with its Kindle Fire, and Barnes & Noble Inc., with its Nook tablets, are among the companies selling Android products

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This frame grab made available by Microsoft shows a scene from the latest in a series of scathing Microsoft ads against Google.

Associated Press

that don't feature Google services. Microsoft's latest ads revolve around concerns already raised by privacy watchdogs. Critics argue that Google hasn't adequately disclosed that customers' names, email addresses and neighborhood locations are routinely sent to the makers of apps sold in Google's online Play store. At least one group, Consumer Watchdog, has complained to the Federal Trade Commission that Google's apps practices represent an "egregious privacy violation." Citing agency policy, FTC spokesman Jay Mayfield declined to comment on whether the complaint has triggered a formal investigation.

"What Google is doing is a big problem, so I am glad Microsoft is helping to bring it to light," said John Simpson, Consumer Watchdog's privacy project director. "But Microsoft has its own problems. I certainly don't think they are doing this for altruistic reasons. They are clearly doing this for their own competitive purposes."

Google says it shares a limited amount of personal

information about Android users or apps for that system as there are for Android.

The notion of Microsoft being well behind Google once seemed inconceivable. A decade ago, Microsoft was the world's most powerful technology company, with its Windows operating system and Office productivity software pervasive on personal computers.

Continued on Page 27

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Court approves sale of last of core Hostess assets

The Associated Press

Hostess Brands Inc. won approval Tuesday to sell off the last of its major cake and bread brands, bringing the total proceeds from its liquidation to about \$860 million.

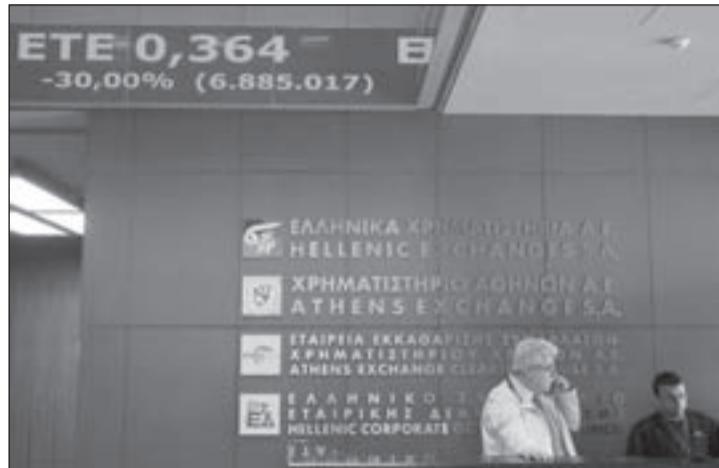
A U.S. Bankruptcy Court judge in New York approved the two deals, said Hostess spokeswoman Anita-Marie Laurie.

McKee Foods Corp., the maker of Little Debbie snack cakes, is buying the Drake's business for \$27.5 million, gaining Devil Dogs, Ring Dings, Yankee Doodles and other products.

United States Bakery Inc. is buying Sweetheart, Eddy's, Standish Farms and Grandma Emilie's bread brand, plus four bakeries and 14 depots for \$30.9 million.

The two buyers had been lead bidders for their purchases.

Irving, Texas-based Hostess filed for bankruptcy protection in January 2012 after years of turmoil. It announced in November that it was going out of business and selling its brands after a strike by its U.S. bakers union crippled operations. Flower Foods Inc. earlier bought five Hostess bread



In this Friday, Nov. 16, 2013, file photo, Twinkies baked goods are displayed for sale at the Hostess Brands' bakery in Denver, Colo. - In this Friday, Nov. 16, 2013, file photo, Twinkies baked goods are displayed for sale at the Hostess Brands' bakery in Denver, Colo.

Associated Press

brands, including Wonder and Nature's Pride, for \$360 million. The popular cake brands such as Twinkies, Ding Dongs, Ho Hos and others were sold to a pair of investment firms for \$410 million in a deal that was approved last month. And Mexican bakery business Grupo Bimbo bought the company's Beefsteak bread business for \$31.9 million.

Hostess' shutdown prompted some food lovers to hoard their favorite treats and others to mourn the

end of well-known brands. The investment firms that bought the Twinkies brand hope to have the cakes back on shelves by this summer.

A representative for McKee Foods could not be reached Tuesday to comment on the sale or the future of Devil Dogs and other treats.

All of Hostess' major brands have now been sold. The company still has some minor brands as well as buildings and equipment that it's trying to sell. □

Greece signals faster state reforms

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Socialist coalition partners in Greece's government said Tuesday that overhauling the country's bloated public sector is crucial for the success of negotiations with international lenders, who are demanding faster reforms as a condition for future payouts.

Socialist leader Evangelos Venizelos met with debt inspectors from the European Central Bank, European Union and International Monetary Fund — collectively known as the troika — and described extensive public sector reforms as a "test of our credibility."

He added: "We should not be afraid of reform. We need it."

Venizelos and a small left-

wing party joined historic rival conservatives in a coalition after elections last June. But, so far, the two junior partners have strongly opposed pressure from the troika for mandatory layoffs and other moves so that the target of 150,000 fewer jobs in public sector can be reached by 2015.

The government has insisted that the target of cutting staff on state contracts to below 600,000 can be achieved through hiring freezes.

The debt inspectors met Finance Minister Yannis Stournaras later Tuesday to discuss the public sector reforms as well as the stalled merger between Greek lenders National Bank and Eurobank, the country's

largest and third-largest by assets once other planned acquisitions are completed.

There were no statements after the meeting, and officials said talks will resume on Wednesday.

Stocks rebounded from heavy losses after the merger news was announced Monday, with the main index at the Athens Stock Exchange closing up 5.7 percent on Tuesday.

Greece has been frozen out of the longer-term bond markets since 2010, when its high debts spooked investors, forcing it to ask for international rescue loans. However, the country maintains a market presence with regular T-Bill auctions. □



In this Friday April 29, 2005, file photo, Kevin Rollins CEO of Dell Inc., looks on at a press conference in Bangalore, India.

Associated Press

Major Dell shareholder favors recent buyout offers

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Dell's largest independent shareholder is leaning toward supporting one of the two bidders trying to scuttle the slumping personal computer maker's proposed \$24.4 billion sale to a group including CEO Michael Dell.

Southeastern Asset Management expressed its preliminary support for the alternative offers in a letter sent Tuesday to the four-person committee overseeing the negotiations. The development doesn't come as surprise, given that Southeastern has been the most vocal opponent to Dell Inc.'s plan to sell itself to Michael Dell and Silver Lake Partners for \$13.65 per share.

That price struck Southeastern as too low. The Memphis, Tennessee, investment firm tried to prove its thesis Tuesday by noting that Dell Inc. has spent \$3.4 billion during the past two years buying back the company's stock at an average price of \$15.25 per share.

"The same board that was confident with Dell buying its shares for \$15.25 is now attempting to convince all shareholders that Dell's business is in such dire straits that they should take \$13.65 and exit their investments," Southeastern's top executives, O. Mason Hawkins and G. Stanley Cates, wrote in the letter. "We believe the Board's sudden rush to sell is trig-

gered by one thing: Mr. Dell's desire to buy.

The backlash to the board's deal with Michael Dell emboldened buyout specialist Blackstone Group and billionaire investor Carl Icahn to submit separate proposals offering a slightly higher price. Blackstone is proposing to buy most of Dell Inc.'s stock for \$14.25 per share while Icahn is willing to pay \$15 per share for up to 58 percent of the shares. Dell's stock dipped a penny Tuesday to close at \$14.19. Unlike the deal with Michael Dell, a portion of the company's stock will remain publicly traded if Blackstone or Icahn prevail. That would allow current shareholders such as Southeastern to share in some of the future gains if Dell Inc. successfully executes on a plan calling for the company to lessen its dependence on the shrinking PC market and diversify into more profitable sectors such as selling data storage services and business software.

The deal with Michael Dell and Silver Lake would end Dell Inc.'s 25-year history as a public company, allowing a potential turnaround to be worked out away from the scrutiny and pressure of Wall Street.

With an 8.4 percent stake, Southeastern is Dell's second-largest shareholder after Michael Dell, who still owns 14 percent of the company that he founded as a college student in 1984. □

Dow Jones average closes at another record high

STEVE ROTHWELL

AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Materials and energy companies led the stock market higher Tuesday, sending the Dow Jones industrial average to its second all-time high in a week.

The Dow closed at 14,673.46, a gain of 59.98 points, or 0.4 percent. The Standard & Poor's 500 index also rose 0.4 percent, closing less than two points below its own all-time high set April 2.

The prices of metals like copper, gold and silver have rebounded this week after slumping for the first three months of the year on waning demand. Oil is also rising following a sharp decline last week.

"You're seeing some pretty decent action in the overall market, with today's leadership coming from the basic materials sector," said Robert Pavlik, chief market strategist at Banyan Partners. "It's an area of the market that does represent some value because it's underperformed."

The rise in basic materials such as precious metals

was caused by a weakening of the dollar against other currencies, HSBC analyst Howard Wen said. Commodities are typically priced in dollars and a decline in the currency allows overseas buyers to purchase materials at lower prices.

Materials companies were the biggest gainers of the 10 industry groups in the S&P 500, rising 1.1 percent. Energy companies posted the second best return, increasing 0.8 percent. Those two groups have been among the weakest in the market this year.

On Tuesday the S&P 500 rose 5.54 points to 1,568.61. The index closed at a record high of 1,570.25 on April 2. The Nasdaq composite gained 15.61 points, or 0.5 percent, to 3,237.86. The gains suggested that the Dow and S&P 500 may be poised to break out of a trading pattern they've followed for the last three weeks.

Stocks have mostly moved sideways since the middle of March. The Dow has alternated between small gains and losses after start-

ing the year on a tear. Signs of slowing growth and concerns about the outlook for Europe had checked investors' confidence.

As companies report results this week, investors will be looking to see whether they are feeling any impact from government spending cuts that kicked in recently, said Jim Russell, investment director at U.S. Bank. They will also want to know what effect there will be from the ongoing debt crisis in Europe.

"The market is looking for companies to fill in those blanks," said Russell.

Alcoa, traditionally the first company in the Dow to report results, was flat at \$8.39 after the company posted its earnings late Monday. Online auto retailer CarMax, home goods retailer Bed Bath & Beyond and the banks Wells Fargo and JPMorgan Chase report later this week.

On Tuesday, Cliff's Natural Resources, an iron ore mining company, rose \$1.66, or 8.8 percent, to \$20.45. The company's stock is still down 47 percent this year. Freeport-McMoRan Cop-



In this Thursday, April 4, 2013 file photo, traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

Associated Press

per & Gold, another mining company, was up \$1.34, or 4.1 percent, at \$33.76.

First Solar soared after the solar panel maker issued a better-than-expected forecast for its 2013 results and solid predictions for the following two years, helped by continued growth in shipments. The stock price rose \$12.31, or 46 percent, to \$39.35. Small company stocks lagged the market. The Russell 2000 index was down 47 percent this year. The index has

slumped this month after rising 12 percent in the first quarter and performing better than both the Dow and S&P 500.

While stocks are struggling to extend their gains from the start of the year, bonds have rallied.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note was unchanged at 1.75 percent Tuesday. However, the benchmark rate has fallen from a high of 2.06 percent reached March 11 as demand for low-risk assets increases. □

KPMG resigns as auditor for Herbalife, Skechers

CHRISTINA REXRODE

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Accounting firm KPMG has resigned as the auditor for nutrition company Herbalife and shoe retailer Skechers after a rogue partner allegedly leaked information about the companies to someone who used it to trade stocks.

KPMG said it has fired the partner and has no reason to believe there were any problems with the financial reports of Herbalife or Skechers.

Skechers said KPMG told it that the ex-partner provided the inside information in exchange for money and is under federal investigation. An SEC spokesman declined to comment. A message left for the U.S. attorney's office in Los Angeles was not immediately returned.

KPMG confirmed media reports that the fired partner was Scott London, the executive in charge of the firm's audit practice in Southern California. It wasn't clear who he allegedly leaked information to. There was no answer at a home phone number listed for London.

The development is a headache for both Herbalife and Skechers. KPMG withdrew its recent audit reports of both companies, because it felt its own independence had been compromised.

David Weinberg, chief operating officer and chief financial officer of Skechers, was spending Tuesday looking for a new auditor. He learned the news Monday afternoon, when two KPMG employees came to tell him in person.

"I don't think it's cata-



In this Thursday, Feb. 28 2013, photo, a pair of specialists confer at the post that handles Herbalife on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

Associated Press

strophic because we have the greatest confidence in the financial statements that were released and that he (the KPMG partner) acted alone," Weinberg said.

Still, he called the news "an

unfortunate development" as the company prepares to report first-quarter earnings, and said he was shocked when he learned it. He didn't think there was anything he could do differently as he looks for a

new auditor: "I don't know that it's up to me to give them a polygraph test," he said.

KPMG initially announced late Monday that it had fired a partner who had leaked private information about clients. It said then that it was resigning as auditor for two of its clients, but didn't identify them.

Herbalife and Skechers made their own announcements on Tuesday confirming that they were the companies involved.

KPMG sought to distance itself from the partner. In its statement, the firm said: "This individual violated the firm's rigorous policies and protections, betrayed the trust of clients as well as colleagues, and acted with deliberate disregard for KPMG's longstanding culture of professionalism and integrity." □

Mutts



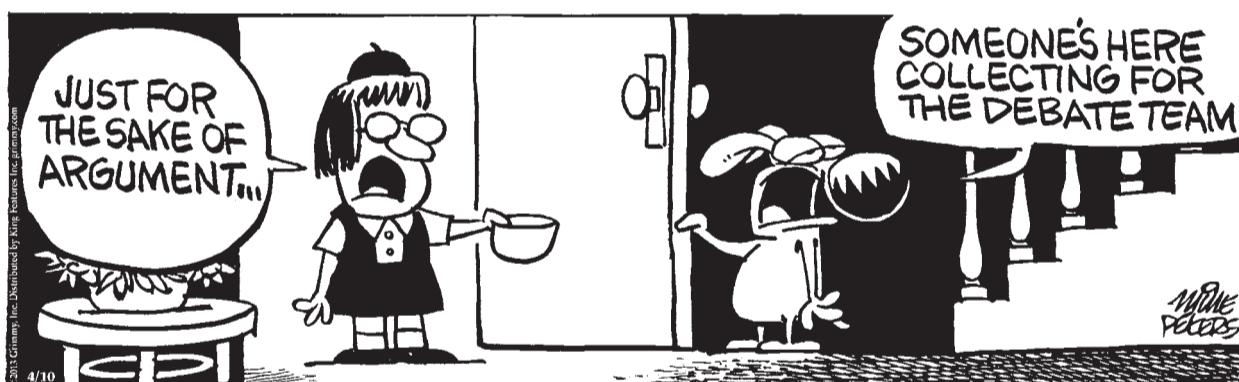
6 Chix



Blondie



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Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			7	1								
3					9							
4					3	8						
1	2				9	7						
4			5	1	2		8					
8							4					
2								6				
			7	8	5	6	4					
			9	4								

Difficulty Level ★★★

4/10

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

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8	4	6	5	9	7	1	2	3				
7	3	9	8	2	1	4	5	6				
5	2	1	3	4	6	7	8	9				
9	5	8	6	7	3	2	4	1				
4	6	7	9	1	2	8	3	5				
3	1	2	4	5	8	6	9	7				
1	7	3	2	8	5	9	6	4				
6	8	4	7	3	9	5	1	2				
2	9	5	1	6	4	3	7	8				

Yesterday's puzzle answer

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14						15				16			
17						18				19			
20						21			22	23			
						24			25				
26	27	28					29						
30			31	32				33		34	35	36	
37		38	39				40	41					
42			43	44				45	46				
			47	48				49	50				
51	52	53						54					
55								56			57	58	59
60					61	62			63				
64					65				66				
67					68				69				

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

4/10/13

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

M	A	C	E	S	T	A	R	T	C	A	M	E
U	P	O	N	P	I	P	E	R	O	X	E	N
T	E	S	T	A	N	T	S	Y	C	L	O	D
E	X	R	A	C	T	E	S	C	H	E	W	S
S	H	O	A	L	A	N	T	D	E	A	N	S
L	A	S	T	A	P	R	E	A	G	A	N	
A	B	C	S	N	E	A	K	R	L	I	E	
B	I	A	S	E	D	V	E	X	D	O	V	
S	T	R	E	W	M	E	N	C	O	W	R	
B	R	A	I	D	E	F	O	R	E	S	T	
L	O	B	O	C	A	B	I	N	F	O	O	
U	S	E	R	A	M	E	N	D	U	R	G	E
R	E	D	S	N	E	E	D	S	L	E	A	D

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4/10/13

7 over; faint
8 Tax-deferred retirement acct.
9 Sounded like a contented cat
10 Superficial
11 One of the five senses
12 Gracie or Mel
13 Has to have
21 Baseball's Koufax
23 Ill at ease
25 Acting parts
26 Suitcases
27 First man
28 Scotia
29 Actor Matt
32 Spooky
34 Thrown for a ; astounded
35 Part of the ear
36 Narrow cut
38 Snail on a plate
40 Country in the Himalayas
43 Reagan's Sec. of State Alexander
45 Wave riders

48 Out of ; painting
50 City in Illinois
51 Farmland units
52 Acute
53 "It takes two to "
54 In the ; alive and in person

56 Charitable gift
57 Russia's Mountains
58 Learn by ; memorize
59 Married women in Spain: abbr.
62 Crushing snake

Microsoft

Continued from Page 23

Microsoft's dominance had grown so extensive that U.S. and European antitrust regulators spent years trying to rein in the Redmond, Washington, software company.

Although Google was growing rapidly at the time, Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer and other skeptics dismissed the company as a "one-trick pony" that hadn't proven adept at doing anything besides searching the Web and selling ads next to the results.

Google, which is based in Mountain View, California, has since morphed into a multi-faceted juggernaut relentlessly trying to muscle into new markets. The company now runs the world's most watched online video service in YouTube, the largest email service in Gmail and the most widely used operating system for mobile devices in Android. All of those services provide more opportunities to show the ads that generate the bulk of Google's revenue. Google is now the company facing the scrutiny of regulators — and Microsoft has been active in making those complaints, including the one announced Tuesday.

"Google is certainly the biggest challenge that Microsoft has ever had to deal with," said Michael Cusumano, a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Sloan School of Management and author of several books about Microsoft.

Microsoft has tried to thwart Google by investing heavily in online services, to little avail. Since Google went public in August 2004, Microsoft's online division has accumulated more than \$17.5 billion in operating losses. The losses include an accounting charge of more than \$6 billion for Microsoft's acquisition of aQuantive, an online advertising service that didn't pan out.

Google, meanwhile, has been steadily increasing profits and share of the Internet search market. □

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Navy to deploy laser weapon in Persian Gulf

Thom Shanker
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 News Service

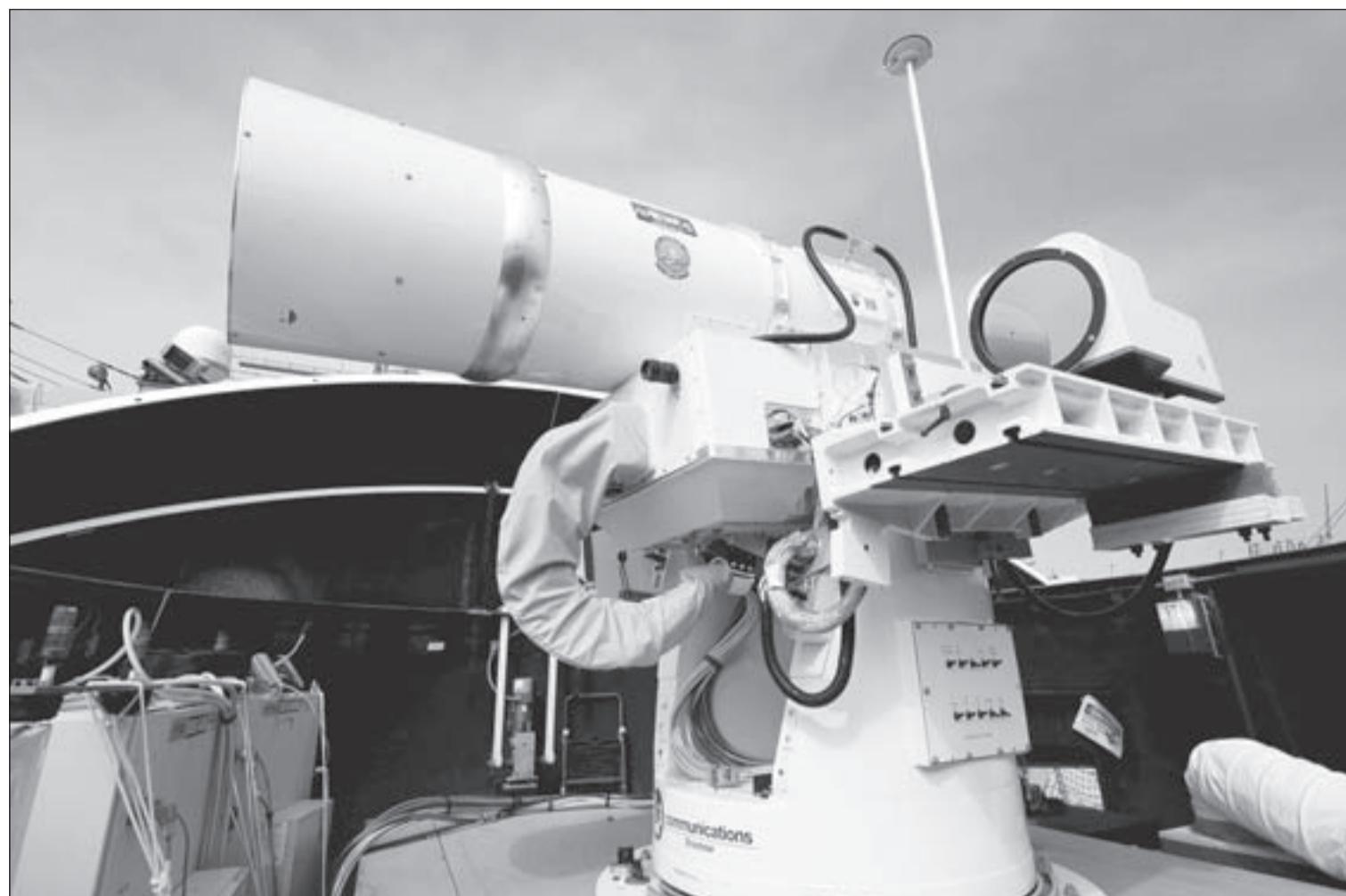
WASHINGTON – The Navy is going to sea for the first time with a laser attack weapon that has been shown in tests to disable patrol boats and blind or destroy surveillance drones.

A prototype shipboard laser will be deployed on a converted amphibious transport and docking ship in the Persian Gulf, where Iranian fast-attack boats have harassed U.S. warships and where the government in Tehran is building remotely piloted aircraft carrying surveillance pods and, some day potentially, rockets.

The laser will not be operational until next year, but the announcement Monday by Adm. Jonathan W. Greenert, the chief of naval operations, seemed meant as a warning to Iran not to step up activity in the gulf in the next few months if tensions increase because of sanctions and the impasse in negotiations over the Iranian nuclear program. The Navy released video and still images of the laser weapon burning through a drone during a test-firing.

The laser is designed to carry out a graduated scale of missions, from burning through a fast-attack boat or a drone to producing a nonlethal burst to "dazzle" an adversary's sensors and render them useless, without causing any other physical damage.

The Pentagon has a long history of grossly inflating claims for its experimental weapons, but a nonpartisan study for Congress said the weapon offered historic opportunities for the



The Laser Weapon System (LaWS) temporarily installed aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS Dewey (DDG 105) in San Diego, Calif., in this July 2012 photo is a technology demonstrator built by the Naval Sea Systems Command from commercial fiber solid state lasers, utilizing combination methods developed at the Naval Research Laboratory.

Associated Press

Navy.

"Equipping Navy surface ships with lasers could lead to changes in naval tactics, ship design and procurement plans for ship-based weapons, bringing about a technological shift for the Navy – a 'game changer' – comparable to the advent of shipboard missiles in the 1950s," said the assessment, by the Congressional Research Service, a branch of the Library of Congress.

The study found that the new high-energy laser "could provide Navy surface ships with a more cost-effective means of countering certain surface, air and ballistic missile targets."

Among the limitations, according to the research service, is that lasers are not effective in bad weather because the beam can be disturbed or scattered by water vapor, as well as by smoke, sand and dust. It is also a "line of sight" weapon, meaning that the target has to be visible, so it cannot handle threats over the horizon. And enemies can take countermeasures like coating vessels and drones with reflective surfaces.

Navy officials acknowledge that the first prototype weapon to be deployed is not powerful enough to take on jet fighters or missiles on their approach. That capability is a goal of researchers.

Among the advantages cited in the study for Congress was the low cost – less than \$1 per sustained pulse – of using a high-energy laser against certain targets. By comparison, current short-range air-defense interceptor missiles cost up to \$1.4 million each.

The laser weapon also has

a limitless supply of ammunition – pulses of high energy – so long as the ship can generate electricity. The beam can reach its target at the speed of light and can track fast-moving targets.

Rear Adm. Matthew L. Klunder, the chief of naval research, said the high-energy laser system was developed as part of the Navy's search for "new, innovative, disruptive technologies." In essence, the Navy is trying to harness technological advances in battling adversaries that are thinking of inventive ways to counter U.S. power. Klunder said the weapon had destroyed targets in all 12 of its field tests.

The laser prototype cost just under \$32 million, officials said. But if the weapon proves itself during its sea trials, and the order is given to buy the laser system for service across the fleet, the price per unit is expected to drop.

Rear Adm. Thomas J. Eccles, the deputy commander for naval systems engineering, said the first

laser device would be deployed on the Ponce, which serves as a floating base for military operations and humanitarian assistance in the waters of the Middle East and southwestern Asia.

Iran has two navies: a traditional force of large older ships and a rival one run by the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps that consists of fast-attack speedboats with high-powered machine guns and crews that employ guerrilla tactics, including swarming perilously close to U.S. warships.

A significant confrontation between the United States and the Revolutionary Guards Corps occurred in 2008, when five of Iran's armed speedboats made aggressive maneuvers as they approached three U.S. Navy warships in international waters in the Strait of Hormuz.

Pentagon officials said the commander of a Navy destroyer was on the verge of issuing an order to fire when the speedboats pulled away; no shots were fired. □

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Kim Kardashian, mom, on witness list in divorce case

ANTHONY McCARTNEY
AP Entertainment Writer

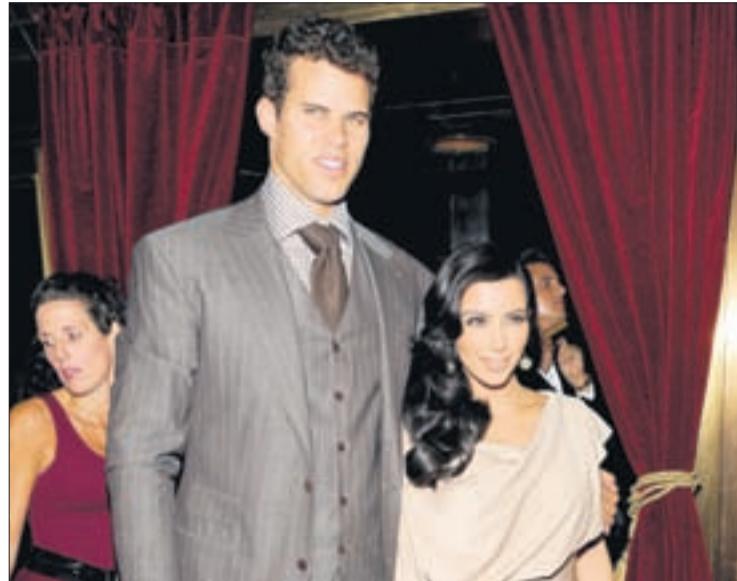
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kim Kardashian's upcoming divorce trial will be a family affair, but her attorneys do not expect to call her famous sisters to testify about the reality star's brief marriage to NBA player Kris Humphries.

But Kris Jenner, Kardashian's mother, and several lawyers and managers are expected to testify about the pair's relationship and prenuptial agreement, according to a witness list filed Monday in Los Angeles.

Humphries is seeking an annulment of the pair's 72-day marriage, claiming it was based on fraud. Kardashian wants a judge to enter a divorce judgment instead and has denied accusations that she married Humphries for the sake of her reality shows.

She will testify that she "did not defraud (Humphries) into marrying her," the filing by Kardashian's legal team states.

Kardashian's boyfriend, Kanye West, and her sisters Kourtney and Khloe are not listed as probable witnesses.



This Aug. 31, 2011 file photo shows Kim Kardashian and Kris Humphries attending a party thrown in their honor at Capitale in New York.

Associated Press

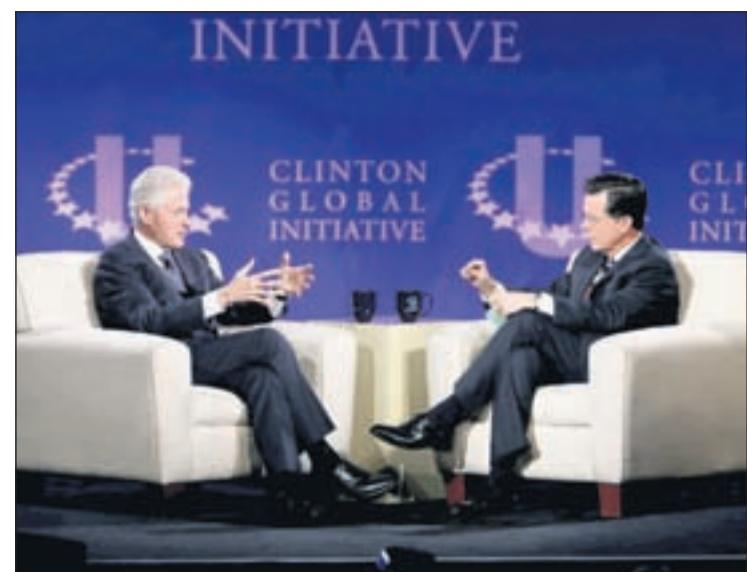
Kardashian and West, who has been deposed in the case, are expecting a baby in July.

Humphries' lawyers attempted to serve West a deposition subpoena disguised in a Nordstrom's box last year, just one of the incidents that have contributed to acrimony between Kardashian and Humphries since she filed for divorce in October 2011.

Humphries, a power forward for the Brooklyn Nets, and Kardashian were mar-

ried at a lavish, star-studded ceremony that was televised by E! Entertainment Television. The network also airs "Keeping Up With the Kardashians" and several spinoff shows based on the family's activities.

Humphries' lawyers have not yet filed their witness list. The former couple is scheduled to appear in a Los Angeles court on Friday to try to settle the case in advance of a May 6 trial date. □



Former President Bill Clinton and Comedy Central's Stephen Colbert, right, speak during the Clinton Global Initiative at Washington University on Saturday, April 6, 2013, in St. Louis.

Associated Press

Stephen Colbert lures Bill Clinton to Twitter

NEW YORK (AP) — Bill Clinton is now on Twitter, albeit without a very presidential name.

Comedian Stephen Colbert lured the former president to the social networking site on "The Colbert Report" on Monday, signing him up with the handle PrezBillyJeff. Clinton dictated his first message to Colbert, who typed: "Just spent an amazing time with Colbert! Is he sane? He is cool!"

Whether Clinton would continue to use the account remained uncertain. Colbert's hand is clearly in the account's bio, too.

It reads: "Stephen Colbert is my BFF."

By Tuesday morning, the account had amassed nearly 50,000 followers and was climbing fast.

Colbert interviewed Clinton not in his New York studio, but at the annual Clinton Global Initiative University gathering in St. Louis.

The interview had been taped Saturday. □

Yo-Yo Ma joins rocker to call for US arts funding

BRETT ZONGKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Guns N' Roses drummer Matt Sorum joined cellist Yo-Yo Ma on Capitol Hill on Tuesday to urge lawmakers to increase funding for the arts in a year of deep federal budget cuts.

The rocker and classical musician played a jam session briefly together for a gathering of legislators and arts advocates from across the country who planned to visit congressional offices.

They performed with bagpiper Cristina Pato and dancing star Lil Buck.

Sorum said his mother was a music teacher and that his high school classes in orchestra, jazz and march-

ing band were critical in launching his career in music and in business. More recently he has started a charity to support arts education in Los Angeles. Guns N' Roses was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland last year.

Sorum said he was excited to visit Washington to press Congress for funding.

"This is the coolest thing I've done since Madison Square Garden, I've got to say. Slash is going to be really jealous," he said, referring to the lead guitarist from Guns N' Roses and now the group Velvet Revolver. "If I can navigate the music business, I'm going to have fun navigating Congress."

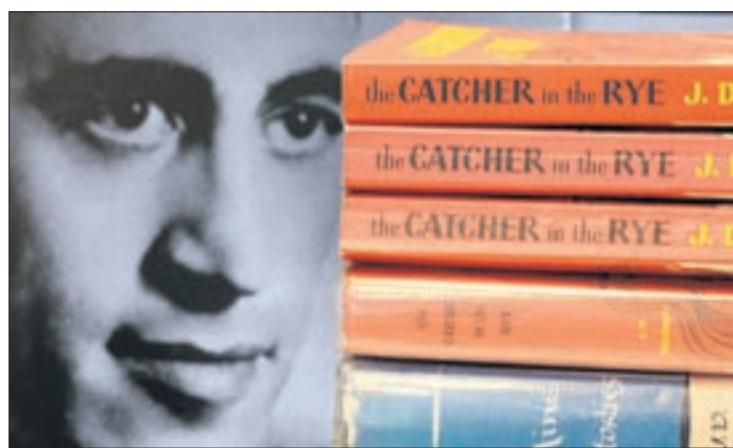
The group Americans for the Arts is pushing for funding to be restored to \$155 million each for the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Last year each agency received about \$146 million and lost about \$7 million of that due to Congress' automatic budget cuts.

Arts programs face a daunting budget environment. With the \$7 million in automatic budget cuts, each endowment stands at \$139 million for the current fiscal year. Overall, each has lost about \$30 million in annual funding since 2010. It's an even bigger drop since the endowments' high point of \$176 million in arts funding in 1992. □



This March 19, 2012 file photo, world-famous cellist Yo-Yo Ma plays in the rotunda of the State of Illinois building, the James R. Thompson Center, in Chicago. This March 19, 2012 file photo, world-famous cellist Yo-Yo Ma plays in the rotunda of the State of Illinois building, the James R. Thompson Center, in Chicago.

Associated Press



In this Jan. 28, 2010 file photo, a photo of J.D. Salinger appears next to copies of his classic novel "The Catcher in the Rye" as well as his volume of short stories called "Nine Stories" at the Orange Public Library in Orange Village, Ohio.

Associated Press

Salinger's letters to mentor donated to NYC museum

NEW YORK (AP) — Letters written by J.D. Salinger to a spiritual mentor have been donated to a New York City museum.

The Morgan Library & Museum, based in Manhattan, announced Tuesday that it will receive 28 letters by the author of "The Catcher in the Rye."

The letters were written to Swami Vivekananda, founder of the Ramakrishna-Vivekananda Center, which donated the correspondence. □

Salinger, who died in 2010 at age 91, was strongly influenced by Eastern religion and philosophy and even mentioned Swami Vivekananda in the story "Haworth 16, 1924." Materials given to the Morgan also include letters the center wrote to Salinger and exchanges between the center and Salinger's widow, Colleen O'Neill. The Morgan will exhibit two of the donated letters April 12-19. The museum already had 24 Salinger letters. □

GSN developing church-based dating show



This Feb. 2013 photo released by the Game Show Network shows host Jeff Foxworthy on the set of "The American Bible Challenge."

NEW YORK (AP) — The GSN television network is looking to build on the success of "The American Bible Challenge" with a church-based dating show.

"The American Bible Challenge," which just began its second season, is a runaway hit for the game show-focused cable network. Jeff Foxworthy is host

of the show, which quizzes contestants on their Biblical knowledge. The show gets more than twice the viewers than anything else on the network.

GSN is developing "It Takes a Church," where church parishioners compete to find a love interest for a single member of the congregation. □

Brad Paisley-LL Cool J draw ire with song on bias



This Nov. 1, 2012 file photo shows Brad Paisley, left, and Rapper/actor LL Cool J, right, arrives at the 48th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas on Sunday, April 7, 2013.

Associated Press

CHRIS TALBOTT
AP Music Writer

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP) — Country singer Brad Paisley says he was trying to foster an open discussion of race relations when he collaborated with rapper LL Cool J on "Accidental Racist."

The new song about racial perceptions has drawn ire from both the country and urban music worlds after its wide release this week. Paisley, the singer-songwriter known for his white cowboy hat and virtuoso guitar work, gave his first interview Tuesday since the hubbub began on "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" after briefly addressing the debate Monday night on Twitter.

"I felt like when we were writing this song, it wasn't necessarily up to the media and I don't really trust Hollywood ... or talk radio or anything like that to sort of deal with that anymore," Paisley said on the show. "I think it's music's turn to have the conversation."

The song appears on Paisley's new self-produced album "Wheelhouse," released Tuesday. It's his most ambitious album so far and the progressive message of "Accidental Racist" is in line with opinions the 40-year-old West Virginia-born singer has expressed before in interviews and songs.

Of the album, Paisley wrote on Twitter, "I hope it triggers emotions," and says he wouldn't change a thing about it: "This is a record meant to be FAR from easy listening. But fun. Like life. Have a ball, ya'll."

At its heart, "Accidental Racist" is about how cultural symbols favored by whites and blacks — the fashion choice of wearing Confederate flags or baggy pants, for instance — come loaded with meaning.

It's not a new discussion. Though race relations have evolved over the decades, cultural symbols continue to color perceptions.

Paisley uses the Confederate flag as an example in the song, noting whites are "caught between Southern pride and Southern blame" 150 years after the end of the Civil War, which was fought by the Southern Confederacy to preserve and expand slavery in the growing United States.

"I try to put myself in your shoes and that's a good place to begin," Paisley

sings, "but it ain't like I can walk a mile in someone else's skin/Because I'm a white man livin' in the southland/Just like you I'm more than what it seems/I'm proud of where I'm from/But not everything we've done/It ain't like you and me can rewrite history/Our generation didn't start this nation/We're still

paying for mistakes that a bunch of folks made long before we came."

Paisley was unavailable for an interview and LL Cool J's publicist did not immediately respond to messages. The 45-year-old rapper, who elevated himself from a teen sensation on the streets of Queens, New York City, to an American cultural icon as a personality and actor on shows like CBS's "NCIS: Los Angeles," provides the response to Paisley's meditations.

He kicks off his portion of the song "Dear, Mr. White Man, I wish you understood what the world was really like living in the hood." Later in the song he raps, "I guess we're both guilty of judging the cover not the book/I'd love to buy you a beer, converse and clear the air/But I see that red flag and I think you wish I wasn't here."

Later he and Paisley enter a call and response portion of the song where LL Cool J raps in part: "If you don't judge my 'do rag, I won't judge your red flag. ... If you don't judge my gold chains, I'll forget the iron chains ... Can't rewrite history, baby ... let bygones be bygones ... Rest in peace, Robert E. Lee, I got to thank Abraham Lincoln for freeing me"

"One of my favorite lines in the song is he says 'I think the relationship between the Mason-Dixon needs some fixin'," Paisley told DeGeneres. "Leave it to a rapper to put it so simply and so beautifully."

Not all the good people of the blogosphere and Twitter world were as taken, though, and comedians were weighing in as well.

Demetria Irwin of black culture blog The Grio wrote, "'Accidental Racist' is the worst song in the history of music," then broke it down line by line.

Comedian Patton Oswalt tweeted: "I can't wait for Brad Paisley & LL Cool J's next single: 'Whoopsy Daisy, Holocaust, My Bad'". □

Insurance and Freedom



Paul Krugman
© 2013 New York Times News Service

President Barack Obama will soon release a new budget, and the commentary is already flowing fast and furious. Progressives are angry (with good reason) over proposed cuts to Social Security; conservatives are denouncing the call for more revenues. But it's all Kabuki. Since House Republicans will block anything Obama proposes, his budget is best seen not as policy but as positioning, an attempt to gain praise from "centrist" pundits.

No, the real policy action at this point is in the states, where the question is, How many Americans will be denied essential health care in the name of freedom?

I'm referring, of course, to the question of how many Republican governors will reject the Medicaid expansion that is a key part of Obamacare. What does that have to do with freedom? In reality, nothing. But when it comes to politics, it's a different story.

It goes without saying that Republicans oppose any expansion of programs that help the less fortunate — along with tax cuts for the wealthy, such opposition is pretty much what defines modern conservatism. But they seem to be having more trouble than in the past defending their opposition without simply coming across as big meanies.

Specifically, the time-honored practice of attacking beneficiaries of government programs as undeserving malingering doesn't play the way it used to. When Ronald Reagan spoke about welfare queens driving Cadillacs, it resonated with many voters. When Mitt Romney was caught on tape sneering at the 47 percent, not so much.

There is, however, an alternative. From the enthusiastic reception American conservatives gave Friedrich Hayek's "Road to Serfdom," to Reagan, to the governors now standing in the way of Medicaid expansion, the U.S. right has sought to portray its position not as a matter of comforting the comfortable while afflicting the afflicted, but as a courageous defense of freedom.

Conservatives love, for example, to quote from a stirring speech Reagan gave in 1961, in which he warned of a grim future unless patriots took a stand. (Liz Cheney used it in a Wall Street Journal op-ed article just a few days

ago.) "If you and I don't do this," Reagan declared, "then you and I may well spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it once was like in America when men were free." What you might not guess from the lofty language is that "this" — the heroic act Reagan was calling on his listeners to perform — was a concerted effort to block the enactment of Medicare.

These days, conservatives make very similar arguments against Obamacare. For example, Sen. Ron Johnson of Wisconsin has called it the "greatest assault on freedom in our lifetime." And this kind of rhetoric matters, because when it comes to the main obstacle now remaining to more or less universal health coverage — the reluctance of Republican governors to allow the Medicaid expansion that is a key part of reform — it's pretty much all the right has.

As I've already suggested, the old trick of blaming the needy for their need doesn't seem to play the way it used to, and especially not on health care: Perhaps because the experience of losing insurance is so common, Medicaid enjoys remarkably strong public support. And now that health reform is the law of the land, the economic and fiscal case for individual states to accept Medicaid expansion is overwhelming. That's why business interests strongly support expansion just about everywhere — even in Texas. But such practical concerns can be set aside if you can successfully argue that insurance is slavery.

Of course, it isn't. In fact, it's hard to think of a proposition that has been more thoroughly refuted by history than the notion that social insurance undermines a free society. Almost 70 years have passed since Friedrich Hayek predicted (or at any rate was understood by his admirers to predict) that Britain's welfare state would put the nation on the slippery slope to Stalinism; 45 years have passed since Medicare went into effect; as far as most of us can tell, freedom hasn't died on either side of the Atlantic.

In fact, the real, lived experience of Obamacare is likely to be one of significantly increased individual freedom. For all our talk of being the land of liberty, those holding one of the dwindling number of jobs that carry decent health benefits often feel anything but free, knowing that if they leave or lose their job, for whatever reason, they may not be able to regain the coverage they need. Over time, as people come to realize that affordable coverage is now guaranteed, it will have a powerful liberating effect.

But what we still don't know is how many Americans will be denied that kind of liberation — a denial all the crueler because it will be imposed in the name of freedom. □



What gun lovers think



Joe Nocera
© 2013 New York Times News Service

In most respects, Dan Baum is a political liberal. But he has always had a thing for guns and has just written a book, "Gun Guys: A Road Trip," which is part gun country travelogue and part meditation on what it means to be a gun lover at this particular moment. Baum, who lives in Colorado, agreed to come to New York, where he grew up, to debate the issue with me.

JOE: Let's start here: Connecticut just passed what may be the toughest gun law in the country, which includes restrictions on magazine capacity and an assault rifle ban. Sounds good to me. DAN: I'm not one of those gun owners who says, "You can't ever infringe my rights." My orientation is safety. How are we going to live more safely? And, to me, the impulse to ban guns and large-capacity magazines is rooted in a delusion — that somehow if we ban them, we'll be rid of them. That might have been a good idea 75 years ago, but it's too late. There are 300 million guns in the country.

JOE: In your book, though, you make a very different argument for not banning assault weapons. You argue that very few people are killed with them.

DAN: That is true. They've been used in these big high-profile mass killings, no doubt about it. But there were no assault rifles at Virginia Tech or Fort Hood.

JOE: But assault rifles were used in Aurora and Newtown. And

here is my larger point. When I talk to gun absolutists, they claim that we shouldn't make such a big deal out of mass shootings because they are statistically insignificant. But so what? We have turned this society upside down because 3,000 people died on 9/11. In the scheme of things, that number is also statistically insignificant. Yet we take extraordinary measures, limiting people's personal freedoms, to prevent another act of terrorism on our soil. Besides, we enact regulations all the time designed to keep people safe, even when the number of people who have been harmed is small. Why are guns different?

DAN: The answer is because we already have so many of them. You need gun owners — the "gun guys" as I call them. They are the custodians of the guns. I also think, though, that gun guys need to take their responsibility as gun owners seriously. A lot of gun owners are perfectly fine, for instance, with universal background checks. I know I am. They are fine with it so long as it doesn't lead to a database and de facto registration.

Gun guys need to lock 'em up; gun guys need to take our responsibility to us much more seriously.

JOE: And what if they don't?

DAN: Then I think we need to punish gun guys. If a gun guy leaves his gun in the glove compartment of a car and it's stolen and used in a crime, perhaps he should be criminally liable. If a gun guy leaves a gun unlocked and a child finds it and kills himself or somebody else, that gun guy should perhaps be liable. And laws that require people to lock their guns up, I think they're great. Report them if they're stolen.

JOE: So why don't "responsible gun owners" — and I know there are a lot — why don't they support such laws?

DAN: There is no tree for them to gather under. And this is a big problem. Because they don't

feel represented by the NRA. This is why I started on this book — I don't feel represented by the NRA, and I know a lot of gun guys who don't. But we don't have — perhaps because we don't feel strongly enough about it — there is no other organization of the sane gun guys, of the nice gun guys, the reasonable, socially minded gun guys. Gun guys, I think, need to take much more seriously that they're custodians of firearms. Their guns affect everybody and they need to be much more responsible with them. And in order to get them there, we need to make allies of them. And frankly, forgive me, you and your rhetoric make enemies of them, and that's making us less safe. Look at what Connecticut is doing. You're not going to get any public safety benefit out of that. I think you're gonna make us less safe. Because you drive the gun guys into that defensive crouch that's so destructive.

My essential belief is that we need to treat gun owners with more respect while also demanding a higher level of responsibility.

JOE: Why do gun owners get to have this level of "respect" that no other segment of society has? I could say, "I'm a responsible driver. Why does the government get to tell me that I have to wear a seat belt?"

DAN: It's not a question of fairness. I am not making a rights argument, or a fairness argument. I'm interested in what will make the country safer.

JOE: Actually, you do make a fairness argument. Toward the end of your book, you write about how you had gained a greater appreciation for the way many Americans feel "over-managed and under-respected." You use the example of a neonatal nurse in California, irate that the state passed legislation mandating that hospitals lock up certain drugs that had always been readily available to the nursing staff. "We're nurses," you quote her as saying. □

Art exhibit pushes boundaries of online privacy

BARBARA ORTUTAY,
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Image after image splashes on the wall of the art exhibit — a snapshot of young people laughing and drinking, a picture of an elephant, an exposed belly of a woman barely covering her breasts with one arm. The photos were taken from their computers without their knowledge through a technological glitch.

Over in a corner, visitors can sort through Facebook profile photos from unwitting users through a website that organizes them by gender, country and adjectives such as "sly," "smug" or "easy going." Think online dating site, for people who don't know they are on it.

The works are part of "The Public Private," an art exhibit that explores the gray areas of online privacy, surveillance and data collection in the age of Facebook and Google. The pieces shift across the boundaries between what's public and private, all through the lens of technology. But lines are never clear, if there are any at all, and that can be unsettling.

Its curator, Christiane Paul, says she hopes visitors will walk away with questions. The exhibit's goal, she says, isn't to universally declare Facebook bad or social media evil, but to get people thinking. It's only been nine years, after all, since Facebook's birth and seven since Twitter was created, so art that explores social networking



In this Tuesday, March 5, 2013, photo, an image from Google Maps, is on display in "The Public Private" exhibit at the Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Gallery in the Sheila C. Johnson Design Center at Parsons The New School for Design in New York.

The Associated Press

as a subject is just emerging.

"I don't think good art provides easy answers," says Paul, adjunct curator at Whitney Museum of American Art and a media studies professor at The New School, where the exhibit runs through April 17.

Indeed, bringing the concept of online privacy into the physical world can feel both uncomfortable and eye-opening.

The Internet may lull us into a false sense of security. Posting something on Facebook, for instance, can feel more private than shouting it on a busy street, even if the opposite is true given that a Facebook post might reach hundreds or thousands of people, perhaps millions.

"We are living, really, in a situation where we don't know what we want to



This Tuesday, March 5, 2013, photo, shows hundreds of images of people's faces taken from Facebook as part of Paolo Cirio's and Alessandro Ludovico's mixed media installation in "The Public Private" exhibit at the Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Gallery in the Sheila C. Johnson Design Center at Parsons The New School for Design in New York.

Associated Press

have as public," says Paolo Cirio, one of the artists featured. "We don't know what is public and what is not. It's a moment of confusion for a lot of people. The next generation already has another idea for privacy." After the exhibit ends, some of the projects will remain available online or offline — at least in some form.

Take Cirio's "Street Ghosts," for example. It's nothing more than life-sized images of people caught in Google's street-level mapping feature, plastered on walls and fences in the same physical place that their digital counterparts occupy on Google Maps. Cirio calls the online ver-

sions "digital ghosts." Some of the images are pasted on the outside walls of the building housing the exhibit.

They serve as a reminder of what we leave behind on the Internet.

"We lose control (of our digital information) completely when we die," he says. "But it's left in the archives of Google, Facebook."

Some of the works in the show, Paul acknowledges, exist in a legal and ethical gray area.

For "The Others," Eva and Franco Mattes gained access to private computer files through "old software that lets you anonymously share files from your com-



This Tuesday, March 5, 2013, photo shows words from text messages and emails sent by people who tried to connect through Craigslist's Missed Connections personals in "Missed Connections" as part of Luke Dubois's installation in "The Public Private" exhibit at the Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Gallery in the Sheila C. Johnson Design Center at Parsons The New School for Design in New York.

Associated Press

puter," Eva Mattes explains. "But people who are not familiar with it mistakenly share their whole computer without realizing it." Looking inside a stranger's computer feels a bit like peeking into his or her house, she says.

A previous project by the couple — not part of this exhibit — made all the content of their computer available to the public. For three years, anyone with Internet access could look through their photos, emails, even their bank account.

The artists say they didn't feel conflicted about grabbing the photos from private computers.

"The first thing I noticed is how little difference there is with the ones you see online all the time," Franco Mattes says. "These are supposedly private photos, but they're no different than public photos. In a sense, I'm doing what all photographers do: I 'take' photos."

So has anyone in the photos contacted them?

"The first time we showed the work, in Sheffield, U.K., a person claimed to be portrayed. To be honest it was hard to tell whether or not he really was the guy in the photos," Eva Mattes says in an email interview.

"Anyway, the next day he came back to see the exhibition with his whole family, to show them he was famous."

She says the couple felt relieved. □

Brooke Singer, a new media studies professor at Purchase College in New York, says the imagery of "The Others" is in itself uninteresting. It looks exactly like photos people post online.

"So the point of the project is not the content per se but to have us consider the ethics and audacity of the act," she says.

The project, she adds, speaks more broadly about the digital age — the way limits to what can and cannot be replicated are constantly built up and torn down "by various interests." □